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HISTORY
of
MAGHERAFELT, *Ir.*

BY
W. H. MAITLAND.

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PREFACE.

The publication of the following sketches, in reference to Magherafelt, was suggested by the celebration in 1913 of the tercentenary of the Irish Society, which was constituted to undertake the Plantation of Co. Londonderry and which granted various estates to twelve of the London Companies.

I regret that, owing to circumstances over which I had no control, the information is not as full as I would have wished.

With gratitude I desire to acknowledge my indebtedness to Mr. Maxwell Given, C.E., Coleraine; Mr. J. W. Kernohan, M.A., one of the Hon. Secretaries of the Presbyterian Historical Association; and to Mr. J. L. Donaghy, B.A., Solicitor and Registrar of the County Court, for valuable notes.

W. H. MAITLAND.

MAGHERAFELT, AUGUST, 1916.

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HISTORY OF MAGHERAFELT.

Magherafelt, according to the Census of 1911, is a town of 1,233 inhabitants. It is situated in the southern end of County Londonderry, is the recognised capital of that portion of the county, has a flourishing market, and is situated in the barony of Loughinshollin. It is 35 miles distance from Belfast, 38 miles from Londonderry, and 114 miles from Dublin.

The name Magherafelt, according to some authorities, means the "Plain of Fegads Fort," while others have it "The Plain of Felta." It was anciently "Tafelta," the house of Felta. When it first took shape it is difficult to say with certainty. It is considered by some to be a town of great antiquity owing to the old church, whose existence can be traced as far back as the year 1425. How long prior to that date the well-known authorities, Reeves and Ware, do not state, but it was then considered the ancient church of Magherafelt. Very little, however, is known of Magherafelt prior to the "Plantation days." No doubt there must have existed houses, probably of cage work, belonging to the native Irish, scattered round the old church. There is a tradition that St. Patrick considered it of such importance that he worshipped in the old church and placed a stone at the bottom of the well opposite the church gate. It was believed that if the stone was lifted out the well would go dry, and remain so until replaced. In 1836 the inhabitants actually believed that some time previously the well had become dry because the stone had been removed for cleansing purposes, and had not been put back. The well was then the chief water supply for the town, and the people declined to try any experiment upon it. This well is still in existence, but as the water has been condemned it is seldom, if ever, used.

There was a prevalent idea that it was originally intended to build the town in Megargy, almost two miles distant from its present situation, and in support of that view it is pointed out that portion of that townland, comprising a number of houses, is called "The Oldtown." However, the generally accepted theory is that Magherafelt (whose ancient name was identified by the late Bishop Reeves as "Teoffigalta") took practical shape with the "Plantation," and consequently we may take that period as a starting point and, in this connection, it might not be out of place to give a short account of that scheme which is associated with the name of King James I., known as the Plantation of Ulster. It was the outcome of a large territory comprising the greater portion of the six Counties of

Donegal, Armagh, Coleraine, Tyrone, Fermanagh and Cavan falling into his hands, owing to O'Neill, Earl of Tir-owen, with several other chiefs, having rebelled against the Crown of England. They were finally subdued and attained of High Treason, and their possessions made over to the British Crown. Ulster had been notorious for affording shelter to rebellious subjects, and the King determined to put an end to such a state of things by inducing English and Scottish Protestants to settle amongst a people "so turbulent as the Irish were." At first County Tyrone was the only part contemplated as the field of operations, but Sir John Davys persuaded the King to extend it to the whole of Ulster, and the London Companies were asked to undertake the Plantation. On the 29th March, 1613, the Charter was granted incorporating the Irish Society and making over to them substantially the whole of County Londonderry. Amongst other things the King provided for the appointment of a Recorder of Londonderry, a sword bearer, and Sergeants at Mace. Prior to the issue of the Charter, on 1st August, 1609, it was resolved by the Society to send four wise, grave and discreet citizens to visit and view the site of the suggested Plantation. This deputation consisted of John Broad (goldsmith), John Munns (mercier), Robert Treswell (painter, stainer), and John Rowley (draper). They accordingly came over, viewed the land and made their report, which was favourable. It might have been otherwise, but care was taken that it should be favourable, for we are told in the "Story of the Irish Society," published by the Irish Society's directions in 1913, that Sir Arthur Chichester, the Lord Deputy in Ireland, had been instructed to use the greatest care and discretion as to those with whom the deputation should view the land, and their conductors were to be men of such understanding and experience that they should be able, "both by discourse and reason, to controule whatsoever any man shall reporte, either out of ignorance or malice, and to give the undertakers satisfaction when they shall be mistaken or not well informed of any particular."

Sir Arthur Chichester faithfully carried out his instructions, for Sir John Davys, one of the King's Commissioners, wrote on 28th August, 1609, that "The Londoners have now come and exceedingly welcome to us. Wee 'all use our best rhetoric to persuade them 'to go on with their plantation, which will 'assure the whole island to the Crowne of 'England for ever. They like and praise the 'cuntry very much—especially the Banne 'nd the river of Lough Foyle."

To give a faint notion of the condition of the country round Magherafelt, we learn from "Hill's Plantation of Ulster," that the Commissioners left Dungannon on 21st August, 1609, and marched towards the County of Coleraine (now Co. Londonderry). The Mountains of Sleivgannon (Slievegallion) not being passable with carriages, they were constrained to pass by Desert Linn and Glanconkeane, near to Killetragh, the greatest fastness of Tyrone. The road by Desert Linn, however, although leading through woods and wilds, was level and had at least one rare attraction for Chichester and Bodley as conducting them to the celebrated lake dwelling of Lochinnis-O'Lyinn, on which they were determined to erect a Fort for the protection of coming settlers in that district. A Fort was built, and in 1641 was held by Shane O'Hagan. The lake is partly in the townland of Desertmartin and partly in that of Annagh and Moneyterlin—the latter being a corruption of Mainister O. Phloinn, and derived from a religious house, founded by a Chieftain of the O'Lyyns. This position was evidently one of importance, as it gave its name to the district now known as the Barony of Loughinshollin.

After the return of the four "wise and grave men" to England, and the presentation of their report, the lands were divided into twelve portions of nearly equal value, in such a manner that each portion represented an expenditure of £3,333 6s 8d. That amount was afterwards found insufficient, and in 1615 a further sum of £1,666 10s 0d was paid by each of the Companies. The Salters had five Companies associated with them, viz.—The Woolmen, The Dyers, The Saddlers, The Cutlers, and The Joiners, and the amount which each of these contributed towards the purchase of the Salters' portion, was as follows:—Salters' Co., £2,931 6s 8d; The Woolmen (purchased by the Salters), £30; The Dyers, £870 0s 0d; The Saddlers, £585; The Cutlers, £337 10s 0d; The Joiners, £246.—Total, £4,999 16s 8d. It may here be stated that according to the report of the Morley Committee on the Irish Society, and London Companies, in 1890, the Land Commission advanced £230,596, as the price of the Salters' Estate, which was sold in 1885.

On 17th December, 1613, at a Court of Common Council, Mr. Alderman Cockaine, the Governor of the Irish Society, and the Master and Wardens of the several Companies being present, the divisions were numbered, and the numbers put on twelve separate pieces of paper, which were rolled and tied up separately and brought into the Council Meeting in a box, from which the drawing took place. The different Companies then entered into possession. Settlers shortly afterwards began to arrive, and it seems that frames of houses were sent over with the settlers by the Companies. The

Salters' portion, however, must have offered great facilities for the building of houses, as it would appear to have been well covered with woods. In a report made by a deputation appointed by the Irish Society to visit the plantation of Ulster in 1836, they stated "there must have been large forests on the Estate, as from records of the Society of all the orders for timber, most of them were given on the Woods of Salters Town and the Society regularly paid salaries to the "Rangers and Caretakers of the Woods." In Mitchell's Life of Hugh O'Neill we are told that the deep woods and thickets of Glanconkeane (the name of that valley through which the Moyola wound its way to Lough Neagh, then the most inaccessible fastness in all Tyrone) afforded shelter for O'Neill and his followers, where he defied the armies of England for a whole winter. It is also said that a "Martin" could hop from bough to bough, from Tobernore to the Lough; that a person could walk from Magherafelt to Coleraine on tree stumps, and in later years, that bells had to be attached to the necks of cattle grazing on Megargy Rocks in order to locate them, so dense was the wood.

About the year 1615 the Salters' Co. sent over an agent and workmen to commence building a Manor House and Bawn, and other preliminary works for planting their estate with settlers.

To ensure that the County might not in future be peopled wholly with Irish, the Irish Society (which was the parent Society) resolved to send out twelve boys from Christ's Hospital, together with other poor, to be apprenticed, and the settlers were precluded from taking Irish apprentices.

The trades, which were considered proper to introduce were:—Weavers of Common Cloth, Fustians (Corduroy) and New Stuffs, Trimmers of Hats and Hatband Makers, Locksmiths, Farriers, Tanners, Fellmongers (dealers in skins), Ironworkers, Glass Makers, Pewterers, Coast Fishermen, Turners, Basket Makers, Tallow Chandlers,, Dyers and Curriers, and skilled workmen of these trades were sent over.

Means were also taken that as far as possible the customs of the Irish should not be followed, as one of the articles of the Plantation stipulated that the undertakers "shall use tillage and husbandry after the manner of the English Pale." Pynnar, in his survey, explained this to mean that the lands should not be tilled with ploughs attached to horses tails, and Sir Arthur Chichester gave a description of their manner of working in a report in which he stated:—"Their short Irish ploughs were drawn by the tail. Their team consisted commonly of five or six horses, all placed abreast, having neither cords, chains nor lines whereby to draw,

"but every horse by his own tail, and to every man a horse." The cruel practice was subsequently prohibited by Act of Parliament. The Charter also directed the formation of the County of Londonderry—and the Barony of Loughishollin—which was taken from Co. Tyrone.

In the year 1613 two members of the Irish Society were sent over to make inquiry as to the erection of fortifications at Derry and Coleraine, and in the course of their report they stated that the prices of provisions in Ulster were 15s for a cow or bullock (about one halfpenny per lb.), 1s 4d to 2s for a sheep, 2s for a hog, 11d a bushel for barley, 4d a bushel for oats, and 16s a barrel for strong beer.

King James, wishing to be informed as to the progress made by the several Companies, directed surveys to be made. The following appears in "Carew's Survey":—"Hereafter followeth a declaration of what is done in the Woods of Glanconkeyne, in the Barony of Lough Enish-O-Lyne, granted to the Londoners. There is 400 loads of tymbre felled and sward, and most of it drawne to the Bann Syde; 400 trees wch ly ready felled; about 20 Irish houses tatched with chimneys buytle at the woods for dwellings for workmen; a house wherein Mr. Hilliocke dwelleth beinge of four bayes, a storie and half high with a floure, two chimneys, covered with borde. About 200 duzen of Birche poles felled for buyldinge of scaffoldinge and burning of bricke and tyle. About 100,000 lathes already riven in the Woods. By estimation, there have byne digged upwards of 40 sawe pitts, in such places from whence tymbre could not be drawn. Ffour men contynually employed about making of cashes to drawe tymbre of the woods to the Bann. About 300 horse load of Wattles lying ready in the Woods. Two frames of houses of six bayes apiece in hand, and neere finished by Moore and Wilson. Tymbre for one ship ready squared and sawen; for another, tymbre felled and sward. Great store of firewood for burninge of bricke and tyle ready cutt at the water syde. Ffour and twentie oxen contynually employed in the Woods for drawinge of tymbre to the water-syde. In the Countie of Colrayne we neither found nor understood of anie thinge done or in hand to be done by the Londoners towards the p'formance of the Articles of the Plantation. Their agents receive the rents there and in the barony of Lough Enish-O-Lyn from the natives, and seeke not to remove them, wch makes the said natives to conceive that they shall not be displanted, wch is a great hindrance to the Plantation of that Countie, and ane ylle example to their neighbours, Workmen and Labourers employed in the Woods:—

"Shipwrights, 4; Sawyers, 9; Tymbre Squarers, 4; Waymen, 8; Tymbre and Wood Sellers and Rafters of tymbre and Wood, 12; Cottmen from the Woods to the Leape, 9; Lath Renderers, 20; Overseers thereof, 3; Ffloaders of tymbre from the Leape, 3; English and Irish men employed by Mr. Nugent in the Woods for the felling and squaring and bringinge down of tymbre, 32."

The work of the Plantation was not allowed to go on smoothly, for according to the "Story of the Irish Society," already referred to, an Irish conspiracy to surprise and destroy the new Plantation was discovered in 1615. However, the organisers of the conspiracy were arrested and brought to justice after trial at Derry, six "Gentlemen of the North," who were near kinsmen of Tyrone, were found guilty of treason and executed.

Another survey was made in 1618 by Captain Nicholas Pynnar, who reported that he found Hugh Sayer (probably the first lessee or agent) upon the proportion of the Salters' Co. "At Marifelt there is a Bawn of eighty feet square of lyne and stone, with two flankers, and the Castle is now in building, being 60 feet long and 20 feet wide. This is now 3 stories high, and the roof ready to be set up. The walls of the Bawn are not as yet above 10 feet high. Near unto the Bawn there are seven houses of slight eage work, whereof 5 are inhabited with poor men, the other two stand waste."

According to the the Muster Roll of County Londonderry, there were on the Salters' Proportion—Mr. Sayer—16 men; 12 muskets and 4 Halberds.

A further survey was made in 1622, from which we learn that on the Salters' proportion there were 6 freeholders, one freeholder resident; 12 British men, and 348 natives. The Survey also states:—"This proportion lies in the fastness of Killetra, where it is very fit for the strengthening of those parts. There was a Castle and Bawn erected between Mayharyfelt and Moneymore, at the two Balle Moans. The Drapers Proportion, which, with Mayharyfelt, being finished, and Freeholds of the said Manor well planted in a convenient Place, and large Paces cut through the woods for highways, will be a great security to those parts, and increase of traffic from the inland countrys to the said Lough Neagh." The Castle referred to is evidently Salters' Old Castle.

(It will be seen that Salterstown was a more important place than Magherafelt in 1622.)

The following note is attached:—"This Manor House and Bawn begun by the

"Company of Salters", and builded to the first "story has so remained these six years, the "timber rotting and decaying being now used "for a Pound for Cattle."

From the Photo it will be observed that Magherafelt, in 1622, was not a very pretentious place, as it only consisted of a Bawn, the house used as a cattle pound, and ten frame workhouses—six of which were occupied two were vacant, and two were in course of construction. The names under the occupied houses are:—Thomas Cooper, Anthony Avery, Silvester Fleetwood, Ellis Redfern, Joice Everett, and John Redfern. Those in Saltertown are:—Daniel Hall, Thomas Jackson, Richard Evans, Edward Young, John Howgrave, Widow Travers, Rowland Waybank, Walter Walton, Mr. Birkett, minister; Matthew Hill, Mr. Finch Miles Shingleton, The Pitts, Richard Avery, Thomas Taylor, Edward Fester, Robert Scott. It is interesting to note that at the present time Robert Averall, who resides in Union Road, and John Redfern, Mullaghboy, both are direct descendants of the Averages and Redferns respectively, who came over at the time of the Plantation. In 1624 the Commissioners of Inquiry appointed to report as to the further progress made by the several Companies in carrying out the Plantation Scheme, stated that of the fifty three and a half townlands belonging to the Salters' Co., eleven were planted with British, and forty-two and a half with Irish—there being 147 Native Irish Tenants.

Charles the First sent articles to the Common Council on 27th May, 1625:—"That each of the twelve Companies were to make six Freeholders of one Balliboe (i.e.—60 acres), at least upon every portion, and ten leaseholders for lives, to whom they were to set lands—at ninnence the English acre to freeholders, and twelve pence to leaseholders, and the rest of their lands they might set to the natives (Irish), who were conformable in religion with them, took the oath of allegiance and supremacy, learned their language, wore their fashion of apparel, and resorted to their Churches. The freeholders were, according to the original condition of the grant, bound, amongst other stipulations, to build a house, enclose it, dwell therein with their families, and keep arms for defence. They were established for the purpose of ensuring a sufficient number of Protestant Jurors to assist in the business of the County at the general Assizes, and to further the Protestant Religion by their residence. The Six Freeholds were:—Ballydrum (Ballindrum), Cusheney (Coolshinney), Arma Knaugh (Ballynenagh), Moyagrygo (Megargy), Ballygildrig (Ballymulderg), and Moywillon (Mawillan).

Fault was found with the companies for not carrying out their undertakings more

expeditiously, and on the 28th February, 1634, a fine of £70,000 was imposed on the London Corporation and the Irish Society, the Charter was cancelled, and the surrender of the estates was ordered. These demands not having been immediately complied with, proceedings were taken in 1638; the Charter was revoked, and the lands seized by the King. Subsequently the fine appears to have been commuted to £12,000 which was paid to the King, and the companies "pardoned" for having broken the terms of the Charter.

The companies presented a petition to the Long Parliament to have the judgment, which had been obtained against them, cancelling the Charters, set aside. The prayer of the petition was granted, Parliament characterising the sentence as not only unjust, but unlawful, and on the 10th April, 1662, a fresh Charter was granted by Charles the Second—the Salters' Company's being dated 5th June, 1663.

The work of the Plantation, as will be gathered from the foregoing, was very slow, owing to the trouble caused by the revocation of the Charter, and the consequent dispossession of the Companies and their tenants. In addition, the natives looked with anything but a kindly eye on the "Foreigners," and were determined to get rid of them at the first opportunity. This came in the form of the terrible Rebellion of 1641. That it was well planned may be gathered from the following, which is culled from Sullivan's account. "On the night appointed, without "failure or miscarriage at any point save one "—Dublin Castle—out of all, at which "simultaneousness of action was designed, "the Confederate rising was accomplished. "In one night the people had swept out of "sight, if not from existence, almost every "vestige of English Rule throughout the "three provinces."

So far as is generally known, there is no published account of the outbreak, which deals principally with local details. The following, however, has been obtained from a very reliable source. It appears that on Saturday evening, 2nd October, 1641, a message was received in Magherafelt that the Irish had taken Moneymore that morning, and were on their way to attack Magherafelt. The people of the town were then called to arms to the Castle, provided with about 15 guns, and preparations were made to withstand the attack. A Mr. Waring took command of the defenders. Two hours after the receipt of the news a party of 200 Irish, under the command of Cormack O'Hagan, attacked Magherafelt which, at that period, was of meagre dimension. On being summoned to surrender, the defenders refused to comply, whereupon O'Hagan's Brigade made a desperate assault, but the inhabitants replied

with such good effect that O'Hagan was forced to retire in the direction of Desertmartin, and took that place. Mr. Waring, anticipating that O'Hagan would return, took eleven of the best armed of the defenders that night under cover of darkness to Bellaghy Castle, which was held by a small garrison, under the Command of Henry Conway, M.P., and who had plenty of arms and ammunition. Mr. Waring informed Mr. Conway of the attack on Magherafelt, requested assistance and a supply of arms. Mr. Conway refused to comply. Mr. Waring then decided to return to Magherafelt, but only six of his followers would accompany him, and early on the morning of the 25th October, they set out on their return journey. When they reached Aghagaskin they were informed that the Irish had returned in force the previous day, captured Magherafelt, and burned the Church, Castle, and houses. Mr. Waring and his comrades then took refuge in Edward Brere's house, in Aghagaskin, and having fortified it, awaited developments. O'Hagan, with his force, arrived in the evening, attacked the house, but were repulsed with a loss of several killed and wounded. He then abandoned the attack and took his departure. Mr. Waring returned to Magherafelt, which he found in a terrible plight. About 50 men, women and children were wandering about in great misery from cold and hunger, O'Hagan's army having stripped them of the greater part of their clothing. Not having the means to assist them, Waring instantly set out again for Bellaghy Castle, taking all the inhabitants with him for food and shelter. They were followed by about 200 Irish, who carried weapons—but not firearms, but were unable to get to close quarters with the refugees, owing to the latter being armed with guns. On approaching the Moyola Bridge they met another party of the Irish—both foot and horse—who charged them—but a volley from the guns sent them off in a panic, leaving several killed and wounded behind them. At last the refugees reached Bellaghy Castle, where they were received and afforded food and shelter.

The havoc wrought by the Rebellion can be better imagined than described. One account, published in 1641, gives an idea, for it states:—"All the country presented a 'deserted appearance—there being only 'eight persons in Loughinshollin.'" The outbreak caused the settlers to seek refuge in Derry, Coleraine, and Carrickfergus—principally in Derry—and it appears each of the 12 Chief Companies sent two pieces of Ordnance to Derry to assist during the Rebellion, in addition to four ships laden with all kinds of provisions.

At the termination of that fateful time Ralph Whistler, who became lessee of the Salters' Estate in 1620, naturally became

most anxious about the fate of his property returned from England about 1656, but died on the 13th February, 1657, and was interred in the Old Church, Magherafelt. The monument, which is of red marble, and which should prove interesting to antiquarians, contains the following inscription:—

H.S.E.,
RADOLPHUS WHISTLER,
Armigeri,
Qui Obut., 13th February, 1657.

(Here is buried Radolphus Whistler, Esq., who died 13th February, 1657.)

*This Monument was removed to St. Swithin's Church on the 13th February, 1858, for its better preservation by the then rector, Rev. Charles King-Irwin, father of the Venerable the Archdeacon of Armagh. Mr. Whistler was evidently succeeded by his nephew, Mr. Gabriel Whistler, who had the lands leased to him at £100 per year, payable half-yearly, and one fat bullock, or £8 in lieu thereof. He must have experienced enormous difficulty in getting tenants to settle upon the lands, as is shown by a letter written in 1691, in reply to an application for rent from the Salters' Co., which also gives a description of the effect of the Rebellion, the seige of Derry, and the trouble caused by the revocation of the different Charters.

He wrote as follows:—

Honoured Landlords,—I lately received a letter from Mr. Redmayne, your Clerk, wherein he writes that he had presented my letter to you, and that you were pleased to order him to give this answer to me that you were credibly informed that my losses in Ireland were not what I had in my letter represented unto you, and that I had got 2 or £3,000 by insurances upon your Estate. There I beseech you to give me leave to inform you that I am not used to write or tell lies, and that what I wrote to you is true to a tittle to the utmost of my knowledge, and to the best information I can have, and that my losses there are many hundred pounds more than I represented to you. And as to my gains by insurances, in all my lifetime I never made, nor was concerned in any assurances whatsoever of the value of so much as one shilling. And that neither directly nor indirectly by myself or any other I ever got so much as the value of one shilling by any insurance whatsoever. If this does not satisfy you I will give you my oath of the truth of it, in any words whatsoever that you shall please to put it. And if you please to send for my brother, who lives in the City, and is also your tenant, to attend you, he will clear me from this aspersion (for such I cannot but take it to

be) and set me right in your thoughts as to that; or if any of you please to inquire of my kinsman, Mr. John West, Scrivener, at the Stocks Market, or my brother-in-law, Mr. Peter Joye, Merchant of your City, they will satisfy you I have not been concerned in anything of that nature, they being partners to most of my concerns that have occurred in your City for many years past. My brother, I heard, made some insurances, but what I know not, nor was I ever concerned with him in it to the value of a halfpenny. Mr. Redmayne also says you were pleased to order him to write that what loss had happened was upon improvement that was upon their land, and not on the land itself, and that your rent was in the nature of a ground rent, and therefore ought to be paid without any manner of delay. You may call it what you please, but sure I am it is a land rent, an Irish and a great rent, as affairs have happened there, and I beg leave to inform you what rent it hath been, and what hath been the fate of that estate ever since it was first granted to the Company, and my uncle and I have been your tenants. In the year 1615, King James the 1st granted the Irish lands to your City. In the year 1617 your Company had their portion of land settled upon them. From that time to the year 1627, you kept the lands in your own hands and managed them by three succeeding agents, who let them to tenants for thirty, and to others for forty years, at £122 in the whole, as by rent roll I have, out of which the agent's salary and other public charges being paid or never received, as I was more than 30 years since credibly informed, and believe you may find by your book £80 was paid in the year 1627. The Company, for £100 of a fine and the present rent, granted the lease to my late uncle who held it, but to the year 1631, when an information was exhibited by the then Attorney-General, on behalf of King Charles the 1st, in the then Court of Star Chamber, against the City of London, upon pretence of not performing agreements and Covenants concerning their Irish lands, and that coming to a hearing suddenly after the Court of Star Chamber, fined the City £70,000, and ordered all their lands in Ireland to be seized into the King's hands, which was immediately, accordingly done, and the City and other Companies' tenants turned out of possession. The City of London finding the Court against them, and to get clear of that monstrous fine of £70,000, compounded with the King and gave all their lands in Ireland to the King, and accordingly their patents were made void in the Court of Chancery, and the King had the possession and profits of all their lands until, in the year 1640, a Parliament was called in England, whereupon the Companies' tenants in Ireland

came over and petitioned against the proceedings of the Court of Star Chamber. The parliament referred it to a Grand Committee, of which my late uncle and your then tenant's brother was. After more than six months' attendance and examination, the parliament upon report of the Committee, in May, 1641, came to twenty-two resolutions, all of which I have, but are too long now to trouble you with, the 18th of which is in these words—“Resolved that upon the whole matter the sentence in the Star Chamber was arbitrary unlawful and unjust, and the 22nd resolve is—That the opinion of this house is that they think fit that both the citizens of London and those of the New Plantation in Ulster and all undertenants, and all those put out of possession shall be restored to the same state they were in before the sentence in the Star Chamber, and accordingly the Parliament addressed the King to regrant the lands to the City, for it was in the King's hands by the surrender of their Charter. The King declared he would restore them and ordered a patent to be made accordingly, but while the Companies' tenants were attending to October, 1641, broke out the great rebellion in Ireland. Within a few days all the houses whatsoever in the County of Londonderry, except the City of Derry and the town of Coleraine, and one poor tenant's house that stood in the woods, and so of all the province of Ulster, excepting the great towns of strength were burnt, and the Protestants that could not make their escape to some place of strength were murdered, and all the stock they had, both of live and dead goods, were taken away, and from that time to the year 1656 there was not so much as a single inhabitant (Protestant) on your lands, no upon any other of the Companies' lands that I ever heard of. In the year 1656 all the lands being in the Crown, and Cromwell having the government he, upon application, granted a Charter to the City of all their lands again, and then my uncle, your then tenant, went over and suddenly after died there, when the lease came to me, and in the year 1657, I went over and got a few straggling people to come upon your lands, but all I could get out of it, for four years, until 1660, was but £134 above the public taxes laid upon it. The Company then claimed 4 years rent, from 1656 to 1660, and were pleased to accept £160 for it, which was more by £26 than ever I made out of it. In the year 1660 King Charles the 2nd returned, and your lands were again in the King's hands, Cromwell's patents being void, and in the year 1662, King Charles the 2nd, upon application from the City, and in pursuance of his father's promise and declaration by patent, again granted your lands to the City. In the year 1663,

the City or the Irish Society granted your proportion to you, for until then you nor I had not title to it, and from that year, for many years your full rent and the public taxes could not be made out of it. But it is true what could not be got, the Company was pleased to abate, as by your books will appear, but until the year, 1677, I got little out of it above what you had and the taxes, and what I did I laid out with many considerable sums I carried from England to re-build the tenants' houses that were burnt in the rebellion. It is true, by the year 1677 I had got it planted, and it turned out to advantage, but being in taxes it was settled low; and that we should have no more troubles there, I laid out the most of it in rebuilding the two chief houses, and making them strong for a defence for the Protestants of that County to fly into in case of a sudden massacre, as the great rebellion was, which houses are now again burnt. But so soon as the late King came to the Crown, he put the Government and arms in Ireland into Popish hands, and thereby put the Protestants in fear, so that trade and rents began to cease, and the people that had anything considerable to remove out of that Kingdom, and so it continued until the happy revolution. But when the late King James was in Ireland, and summoned his Parliament, as he called them, there, that parliament, by public act, which I have made void your charter, and granted all your lands to King James, not so much as saving the right of one single person. And at the same time happened that fatal siege at Derry, into which almost all the people of that County that had either purse or strength, and were not fled into England or Scotland, went and were besieged 16 weeks, and wherein many thousands died, of which I have above sixty whose hands I now dearly want. And when that siege was raised the Irish, out of malice, burnt almost all the whole country, some few houses excepted, and drove and carried away all their cattle and goods, and left only a few poor, naked people ready to perish for want. And sure I am, were you truly sensible of the miseries that Kingdom has suffered, and wherein the County of Londonderry by that siege, and therein the loss of the people, and by fire and robbery of their houses and goods have lost more than any County in Ireland, you would rather think them objects fit to be relieved than take anything from them for what is past. It was not in your nor my power to hinder what hath happened. War, fire and the sword had done it, and I am a very great loser by it, never to be repaid. Never will that Kingdom, in 20 years of peace, be put into the condition they were before these calamities happened, besides the vast losses to the owners. In the meantime I have

writ you the truth of what hath befallen, and beg your pardon that I have been so tedious, but in less I could not lay before you the misfortunes that have attended our unhappiness there. I only further entreat that you will please to do to me as you would be done by were you in my condition, and that you will give me leave to subscribe myself,

Your humble servant,

GABRIEL WHISTLER.

Matters remained in anything but a satisfactory state after the quelling of the Rebellion, and the succeeding of James II. to the Throne did not tend to smooth them. The appointment of the Earl of Tircconnell (a strict Roman Catholic) to the office of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, created a great deal of unrest amongst the Protestants, and they solicited the services of William—Prince of Orange—who landed in England in 1688. The large majority of the people in Ireland were Catholics, and they assisted King James. Civil war, with all its horrors, again broke out, Magherafelt being taken by part of the followers of King James, who, according to Lewis, used the Old Church as a barrack, which saved it from being burned. The Castle had been destroyed, and they plundered the town and caused the settlers, who were not able to leave for England or Scotland, to flee to the mountains and to Derry City—a number of them taking part in the memorable siege in 1689.

The Castle at Salterstown, which had been erected by the Salters' Co. at the time they got possession of their Estates was, during the Rebellion of 1641, held by a small guard of probably about twenty men. They were attacked by Sir Phelim O'Neill, who captured the Castle, and held it until 1643 or 1644, when the advance of the British forces compelled him to retreat into County Cavan. Before leaving he burned the Castle and Church. The latter, it is said, was situated a short distance from the Castle—about two fields length. The keeper of the Castle and the rector, Mr. Birket, escaped across the lake in 1641, but they and their families subsequently died of starvation at Carrickfergus.

The Castle and bawn were rebuilt about 1677 by Gabriel Whistler—the then lessee of the Estate, but it was again destroyed by the army of James the Second in its retreat after the relief of Derry. The ruins of this second Castle are those now existing.

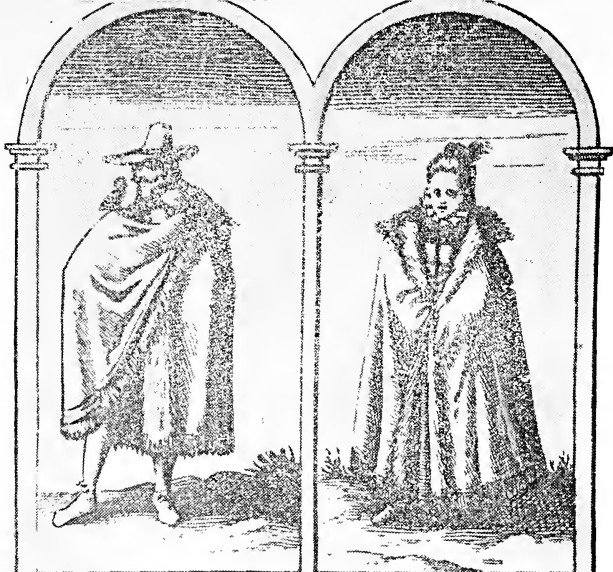
After the defeat of James at the Boyne, matters became normal for a time, the settlers who returned applying themselves to improving their property and making and repairing the roads. The method by which these were repaired in those days would seem very novel to us in this twentieth century.

There was an Act passed, entitled: "The Six Days Labour Act," which enacted "that for 'every plough land in tillage or pasture, 'occupied by a person in the same parish, 'and every one keeping a plough, shall send 'to the place appointed for the amendment 'of the highways in that parish one cart 'furnished, etc., with oxen, or horse and two 'able men.'" And this was further enforced by Queen Anne, c. 9, sec. 2, which enacted that the major part of the parishioners who shall meet yearly in Easter week may agree to divide the whole way or keshes to be made, and allot so much of the highway as can be finished by the six days' work in that year, and to continue yearly till the whole highway was repaired, and section 3 stipulated that no person was to be obliged to travel two miles beyond the limit of his parish to work at any highway.

From this it is apparent that it was the duty of the vestries who met during Easter week to have the roads made and kept in repair by the parishioners themselves, as each person (a labourer excepted) was to give six days free labour, and in order that the work would be properly done the Vestries appointed Overseers of the Highways. In 1717 Major Thomas Ash, Captain Thomas Hammersly, Wm. Johnston, Killyfaddy, and John Bunting, Killyneese, were appointed. This was continued till 1720,

when Major Thomas Ash was appointed Supervisor of the Highways, and Richard Handsbury and Andrew Morton, assistants. In 1721 Thomas Trotter, sen., and Wm. Allison, were chosen overseers of the highway leading from the Market House of Magherafelt to Moneymore, and at a special meeting of the Vestry held, pursuant to an Act of Parliament, for the repairing of the highways, on the 6th October, 1736, a Wm. Doherty was appointed Director of the said Parish, and it was resolved—"that a sum, not exceeding £2, be paid Mr. Doherty for his trouble, as 'the parishioners shall judge he deserves it, 'and that sum to be levied off the parish." This sum was paid yearly for many years. In 1768 this system was abandoned and replaced by Grand Jury Presentment.

The non-existence of an easily obtainable successive record of Magherafelt from the Plantation days is a real want. It would be of the utmost interest and very much prized. An effort was made to obtain information from the Records in possession of the Salters' Co., for the purpose of enabling, as far as possible, such an account to be prepared, but it proved unsuccessful, the Company not seeming anxious to impart the necessary data, or allowing it to be abstracted. Therefore these notes are not as full as the compiler would have wished.



The Gentleman of Ireland

The Gentlewoman of Ireland



The Wild Irish man



The Wild Irish woman

OLD IRISH TYPES

(from an engraving), by permission of the proprietors of the "Belfast Evening Telegraph."

MAGHERAFELT 150 YEARS AGO.

The next reliable account we have of the town of Magherafelt is that contained in the Terrier (Rental) of the Salters' Co., issued in respect of the half-year ended 1st November, 1752, which gives a description of the principal occupiers:—

Wm. Allison—A thatched house of two storey and a garden.

Wm. Reynolds' Executors—A low thatched house.

Rev. Mr. Wallace—A tenement—the house down.

Widow Fulton—A low thatched cabin.

Executors of Thomas Trotter, sen.—A shingled house one storey and a half high.

Wm. Ash—Two shingled houses, each two stories high; one shingled house, one and a half stories high, and a malt kiln, part of it shingled and part thatched.

Wm. Fleming—One shingled house, two stories high, and two of a storey and a half each.

Robert Kilpatrick—A cabin.

Robert Semple—The like.

Mrs. Warburton—Three shingled houses of one storey and a half high, and three low cottages of one storey.

John Campbell, Trent—A shingled house of two stories.—

Thomas Burney—A thatched cabin.

John Boggs—The like.

Wm. Hall—Same.

Robert Nelson—Same.

John Nelson—Same.

James Neyser—Same.

Alexander Brady—Same.

Wm. Given—A shingled house two stories high.

Widow Burnett—A small shingled house of one storey and a half high.

Thomas Trotter—A shingled house of one storey.

George Houston—A cabin.

Nicholas Logan—Same.

Robert Berkley—A malt house, shingled.

Robert Rainey—A singled house two stories high.

From the foregoing it would appear that Magherafelt was not a very important town, as it only consisted of thirty-two houses, a Malt Kiln and a Malt House. Of those

mentioned as the occupiers, none of the names are extant to-day, except that of Semple, represented by Mr. John Semple, woollen draper, Rainey Street. But it seems that although his ancestors were amongst the first settlers, they took up their abode in Aghagaskin, and their descendants continued there till a comparatively short time ago. They have been interred in the Old Church Burying-ground.

In 1766 a Parliamentary Return as to the Religious Denomination of the families in each parish in Ireland was called for, and the Rector was the person on whom devolved the making of the return. The following, for Magherafelt Parish, was taken on the 28th day of March, 1766, by Rev. James Richardson, "Parish Minister of Magherafelt," from 1733 to 1771. He returns 625 families altogether, and classifies them thus:—"Protestants of the Established Church, 148; Protestant Dissenters, 274; Papists, 203. He adds:—"No Popish Priests or Fryars reside in this Parish."

We give the names as returned and classified, and it will be noticed that many of them are represented at the present day, after a century and a half.

Protestants—Rev. James Richardson, rector; Edward Betty, Samuel M'Elroy, Abraham Keightly, Robert Brodly, Robert Redfern, Benjamin Redfern. James Lenox, Margaret M'Connell, Widow; James Holden, William Lenox, William Nodwell, Matthew Nodwell, William Nodwell, younger; Richard Hawthorn, Tracey Dawson, James Leckey, Henry Hall, George M'Calla, John Downing, Joseph Reynolds, John Reynolds, William Winchester, Mary Reynolds, Widow; Henry Reynolds, Alexander Lawson, John Johnston, Archibald Brodly, Thomas Redfern, Roger Palmer, Jane Brown, Widow; Elizabeth Fullerton, Richard Dawson, William Hawthorn, Daniel Reynolds, Gerard Carleton, Elisabeth Campbell, Widow; Daniel M'Quilkin, George Nowles, Thomas M'Murray, Elisabeth Conyngham, Widow; Thomas Man, James York, Jane Graves, Widow; Thomas Lawson, Henry Hall, Joseph Donnison, James Kane, Henry York, George Foster, Samuel Murdagh, John Leckay, younger; Joseph Mallard, William M'Lane, Edward Marlin, William Marlin, James Collins, Daniel M'Gonigill, Henry Dorman, George Burrows, John Buntin, Samuel Pue, Anthony Buntin, Mary Williams, John Hillman, Michael Buntin, Charles Greer, Olivia Fox, Charles Brown, John Hamersly, James Purdoo, Ralph Brodly, Thomas M'Gurk, Thomas Graves, Richard Murdock, William Brown, Francis Morgan, Alexander Brown,

William Peacock, John Brown, John Boggs, Thomas Barnett, Joseph Bennett, Robert Brown, James Carothers, Richard Stanley, Thomas Deacon, Bartholomew Clark, John Dovlin, Randle Cox, Michael Stanley, James Cox, Elisabeth Lawson, Widow; Richardson Williams, James Miller, Thomas Richardson, Robert Garven, Patrick Hillman, Edward Tipper, Francis Garven, William Taylor, Francis Searson, Thomas M'Vey, Robert Nelson, Alexander Montgomery, George Armstrong, Margaret Newton, John Jennings, Ralph Brunkard, Edward Brown, Christophilus Reynolds, Hugh M'Elhone, Adam Hendry, Richard Williams, Robert Dawson, George Rodgers, James Brown, Arthur Tracey, Sarah Badger, Widow; William Badger, John Leckey, Margery Huey, Widow; John Redfern, Joseph Redfern, John Morrow, John Nelson, Mary Mullen, Widow; John Whiteside, Hugh Mullen, Archibald Williams, William Cuddy, Thomas Rodgers, Richard Garven, Joseph Evans, Phillis Warburton, Widow; Alexander Bradey, Thomas Johnston, Jeremy Hailey, Thomas Brodley, James M'Garvey, Mary Vance, Widow; Edward Whiteside, Jane Whiteside, Widow; John Mullen, Andrew Frazier, Hugh Rodgers, Thomas Man, Ezekiel Richardson.

Dissenters—James Semple, James Bowman, Matthew Johnston, Hugh Garven, William Dickey, William Galway, William Robinson, George Stuart, Thomas Johnston, Neal M'Mullen, Thomas Dale, John Stuart, Samuel Stuart, David Evans, Joseph Evans, Matthew Evans, Samuel Evans, Robert M'Erlain, Adam Robinson, Joseph Bell, Thomas Shannon, Samuel Shannon, Hugh Con, Robert Wiley, John Wiley, William Dool, Hugh Miller, James Taylor, Joseph Pattison, John Brown, Hanna Duncan, Widow; Thomas Ditty, James Brown, Robert Steel, Thomas Eaken, Jane Eaken, Widow; James Richey, Alexander Graves, James Gilmer, Robert Gilmer, William M'Garvey, Moses Thompson, James Brown, Matthew M'Kee, Mary Purvis, Widow; Francis Morton, Margaret Morton, Widow; Andrew Morton, William Gray, Stuart Morton, James M'Mullen, Alexander Wior, Moses Moor, James Cathcart, George Badger, William Badger, Joseph Paul, George Campbell, Jacob Wilson, Thomas Caulfield, James Paul, Andrew Hays, Adam Costin, William Stuart, John Eaken, William Hunter, James Stitt, Kennedy Henderson, Samuel Crawford, Sophia Birkby, Widow; James Willox, Jane Garven, Widow; Thomas Woodworth; John Caldwell, James Crawford, Neal Campbell, Neal M'Erlain, John Finlay, Alexander M'Cool, William Farlow, Alexander Semple, Ann Reed, Widow; James Long, Hercules Douglas, Thomas Dunlop, George Eaken, Alexander Wiley, Francis Davison, Robert Crawford, John Watson, Andrew Fullerton, William Parks, William Clownish, Edward

M'Garvey, John Creighton, Adam Vance, James Little, John Patterson, Matthew Lindsay, William Lee, Joseph Warden, William Marks, William Dempster, William Proctor, Thomas Rooney, James Caldwell, Arthur Forbess, David Duncan, Matthew Harbison, Thomas M'Clatchy, Thomas Lee, Robert Clark, John Johnston, Elder; John Johnston, Younger; James Millikin, Rowley Mullen, William Dobbin, Duncan Campbell, Matthew Johnson, John Buntin, James Johnston, John Brown, John Johnston, John Wilson, Thomas Robinson, John Stuart, Hugh Stuart, Thomas Staunton, Henry Barry, James Steel, Elizabeth Foster, Widow; John M'Culloch, James Sloss, James Sloss, Younger; John Johnston, Alexander M'Kay, David Duncan, Samuel Crossan, David Duncan, Younger; William Taylor, James Duncan, William Buntin, James Hodge, Robert Lee, Alexander Christey, Robert Maxwell, Joseph Richey, John Ditty, John Cannon, James Brown, Andrew Richey, William Berryman, John Graves, Daniel Graves, John Staunton, Mary Given, Widow; John Laurence, Catherine Given, Widow; William Given, Margaret Trotter, Widow; William Berfoot, Catherine Maghlin, Sarah Duncan, Widow; Mary Duncan, Widow; Mark Morrow, James Booth, William Barry, Henry Car, William Mills, William Ray, Matthew Boden, Mary Campbell, Widow; David Armstrong, John Greer, James Greer, Elizabeth Johnston, Widow; John Murphy, William Peacock, Isabella Burney, Widow; Esther Brunkard, Widow; William Steel, Samuel Laird, John M'Neill, Michael Wallace, Hugh Wallace, James M'Crackin, William Mullen, Robert Houston, Andrew Shannon, Matthew Taylor, James Taylor, Thomas Ramsay, Duncan Swaine, Matthew Kyle, James Maghlin, David M'Garvey, John Stitt, John Hunter, Hugh Graham, David Mulholland, Cornelius Costin, Mary Semple, Widow; Archibald M'Ginnis, John Richey, George Patterson, Thomas Ditty, Robert Steel, John Lewis, John Glenholmes, Joseph Thompson, James Ditty, Joseph Thompson, John M'Murdey, David Jennings, John Graham, Anne Fulton, William Scott, Matthew Allison, Jeremy Lindsay, George Lindsay, James Houston, Robert Conning, Andrew Richey, William Car, Nathaniel Mitchell, William Stitt, Mary Johnston, Widow; William Kirkpatrick, Alexander M'Crackin, George Woods, John Tomb, William Trotter, Abraham Matthews, Alexander M'Mullon, Andrew Little, George Benderman, William Ditty, George Wright, Benjamin Brown, John Brown, James Brown, William Brown, Mary Ann Brown, Widow; Martha Taylor, Widow; Andrew Davidson, William Duncan, Robert Armstrong, Mary Loughey, Widow; Samuel Bates, George Graham, William Graham, David Reed, William Dunlop, Adam Burrows, David Graham, Robert Burrows, John Ditty, John Ditty, younger; Samuel Ditty, John Waller,

John Waller, Younger; James M'Naught, James M'Naught, Younger; Robert M'Master, Hugh Brown, William Eaken, Thomas Wallace, Robert Love, John M'Kee, Thomas Maghlin, George Philipps, John Askin, Mary Wilson, Widow.

Papists—Bryan M'Teig, Cormick O'Neill, Patrick Judge, John O'Neill, Phelemy O'Neill, Edward Tole, Edward M'Williams, Bernard M'Cann, Patrick M'Teig, Roger O'Lagan, Henry Tole, John M'Atier, Darley Morron, James Dowdal, Patrick Mulderig, John Griffin, John Morrow, Patrick Griffin, Torlagh M'Laughlin, Roger M'Gillan, Owen O'Hemphey, Neal O'Devlin, Archibald M'Donald, Tole Gilmore, Owen M'Williams, William Gilmor, John Dowdal, Robert Brodly, Hugh Cossily, Maurice O'Murray, James M'Quillan, Daniel O'Neill, Patrick Nocher, Dennis M'Elhone, Roger M'Camel, John M'Gonnigill, Patrick Conary, James M'Atier, Thomas Henry, Cormick O'Lagan, James O'Lagan, John Morgan, Daniel Mulholland, Nicholas Ledan, Ferdinand Devlin, Hugh M'Cann, Dennis Conary, Bryan M'Kelvey, James M'Laughlin, Andrew M'Laughlin, John M'Teig, Thomas M'Teig, Bryan M'Teig, Phelemy Cahan, John Gillaspay, George Lawson, Henry Taminey, Owen O'Morron, Hugh Corr, Adam Ward, Bridget Henry, Widow; Owen Toner, Michael M'Cann, Phelemy Conary, Mary Follarty, Robert Coshilley, Roger M'Corley, Connor M'Analley, Bryan Devlin, Roger Lorean, Hugh Mulkenan, John Scullion, Cormick O'Neill, Allen M'Quaid, Lewis Walsh, Daniel O'Lorean, Manasses Mulgrue, Michael O'Connor, Michael Mulgrue, Bryan M'Gonnigill, Jane Morron, Widow; Maurice Ward, Roger Farril, Fergus Ward, Patrick Taminey, Margaret O'Neill, Widow; Closhney M'Ginnis, Owen Kelly, James M'Gurk, Bryan M'Gurk, Gilldoe Trolan, George M'Camel, Dennis M'Carrol, James Flanigan, William Chievers, Patrick Chievers, Thomas Coshilley, Hugh Coshilley, Patrick M'Navall, Manasses M'Navall, Thomas M'Navall, Hugh M'Navall, Dominick Dawdall, Henry O'Neill, William Stevens, Owen Mulloy, Francis Morron, Thomas Kelly, William Mulderig, Daniel Coshilley, Patrick Walsh, Peter Brodley, Neal O'Boyle, John M'Owen, Miles M'Owen, Michael Short, Thomas Mulholland, Bernard M'Guckin, Mary Dunn, Henry Madden, Edward Boyle, Patrick Slano, Michael M'Navall, Bridget M'Canna, Charles Diamond, Michael Walsh, Nicholas Walsh, Bryan M'Alpin, Bryan M'Correy, William Barnett, Daniel Mulderig, Matthew Boylan, Torlagh M'Allester, Owen Hughes, Dennis M'Teig, Thomas M'Teig, Edward M'Laughlin,

Daniel Crawford, Duncan Gilmer, Patrick Gilmer, John M'Gown, George Smith, Owen Donnell, Patrick Quinn, John M'Fillone, Patrick M'Mahon, Hugh M'Navall, Col. M'Teig, Daniel M'Gorray, Eveng Brodley, Patrick Smith, Daniel Mulholland, Phelemy Dairy, John Docherty, Cornelius M'Gonnigill, James M'Gonnigill, John Scullion, John Cargan, Daniel O'Cahan, Francis M'Crystall, John M'Donnell, Alexander M'Donnell, Charles M'Camel, Cormick M'Nichol, Alexander M'Nichol, Patrick Shields, Mary Henry, Widow; John Conwall, John Henry, Thomas Hagan, Richard M'Allester, John Diamond, Daniel M'Guire, James M'Quaid, Richard M'Quaid, James Brodly, Edward Keenan, Edward Laverty, Bryan Kerney, Daniel Kerney, Dennis Keenan, James O'Cahan, Edward O'Cahan, Bryan O'Cahan, Andrew M'Nichol, Christopher M'Kay, Neal Quigley, John Smith, Daniel O'Donnelly, Edward Keenan, Francis M'Teig, Phelemy Devlin, Manasses Mulholland, Patrick Coshilley, John O'Cahan, James O'Cahan, Younger; Michael M'Eldoon, Neal Keenan, Murtagh Keenan, Dennis M'Canna, Bryan Car, Charles M'Quaid, Richard Mulholland.

There are twenty townlands comprised in the Parish of Magherafelt, and of the names given in the above Census, we find that in seventeen townlands they are still extant, as follows:—

Aghagaskin—Keightly, Bradley, Redfern, Lennox, Johnston, Bowman, O'Neill, Keenan.

Annaghmore—Dawson, Stuart, Bell.

Ballymoghgan—Evans, Steele, Eakin, Richey, Huston.

Ballyheifer—Harbison.

Ballynocker—Winchester, Weir, Marks.

Coolshinney—Nodwell, Dornan, Burrows, Wiley, Duncan, Caulfield, Stitt, Douglas.

Dunarnon—Bradley, Johnston, Dobbin, M'Kee.

Dunamonney—Brown, Lees, Love.

Drumrainey—Redfern, Carleton, Staunton, M'Gurk.

Killyfaddy—Shannon, Duncan.

Leckaghy—Boden.

Megargy—Kane, Badger, Vance, Dickey, Ditty, Purvis, Paul, and Wright.

Mullaghiboy—M'Gonigle.

Magherafelt—Keightly, Greer, Peacock, Devlin, Semple, Thompson, Caldwell, Johnston, Walsh, Donnelly.

Tamnadace—Mann, Garvin, Robinson.

Tullylinksay—Brown, York, Dale.

VOLUNTEERS— OLD AND NEW.

In consequence of the introduction of the Home Rule (Ireland) Bill into the House of Commons in the year 1912, and the great prospect of it becoming law, Unionists, not alone in Ulster, but throughout Ireland, formed Unionist Clubs, so that they would be in a position, if a Home Rule Parliament was forced upon them, to refuse to recognise its authority. The Unionists in and around Magherafelt were not behind in this respect, and Clubs were formed in Magherafelt, Ballymoghlan, Megargy and Aghagaskin. In order to impress the people of Great Britain that the Unionists were in earnest in their opposition to the Bill, a solemn League and Covenant was drawn up for signature by each person, male and female, who was opposed to Home Rule, and the 28th September, 1912, called Ulster Day, was fixed as the day on which the Covenant should be signed. The following is the account of the proceedings of that day, and which appeared in "The Mid-Ulster Mail" of 5th October, 1912:—

MAGHERAFELT.

The utmost enthusiasm and determination characterised the holding of Ulster Day in this town. The weather was all that could be desired. From a very early hour Union Jacks were flown from almost all the Protestant business establishments and private dwelling-houses—as many as six flags being displayed from some. The Empire's emblem also floated proudly from the various Protestant churches. The country people suspended work for the day and flocked into the town, and on every hand appearances were not wanting, that as far as the Protestant people of this district were concerned, they were determined that they would not submit to be governed by an Irish Parliament. All the Loyalists' business-houses were closed from 11-30 till 2 o'clock, and the town presented the appearance of having donned its Sunday aspect. Mr. John Gordon, K.C., M.P., arrived by the 11-18 a.m. train from Belfast, and received a very warm reception. He was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. James Brown. At 11-30 people began to enter the 1st Presbyterian Church, where the United Religious service was held, and at 12 o'clock, the hour for commencement, the sacred edifice was filled in every part. The service commenced by the singing of the 100th Psalm, after which the Rev. E. Ritchie, B.D., engaged in prayer. The Hymn—"O God our help in ages past," was then rendered. The special lessons were the 35th Chap. of Isaiah and 6th Chap. of

Ephesians, from the 10th to the 18th verses, and were read by the Rev. G. W. Lindsay, A.M. The 46th Psalm, 2nd version, having been sung, prayer was engaged in by the Rev. W. E. Maguire. An eloquent address was given by the Rev. G. Gillespie, M.A., from the 1st verse of the 46th Psalm—"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." The Hymn—"O God of Bethel," having been rendered, and the benediction having been pronounced, the solemn service was brought to a close by the entire congregation singing the National Anthem. The congregation, at whose head marched Mr. Gordon, the Revs. George Gillespie, G. W. Lindsay, E. Ritchie, and W. E. Maguire, went to the Town Hall, where ample provision had been made for the signing of the Covenant by the men—Mr. Gordon signing first, and he was followed by the clergy, after which the men signed. The women marched to the Union Road Lecture Hall, where the Covenant was signed by them. The arrangements were admirably carried out by the Hon. Secs., Mrs. James Brown and William Semple. Both halls remained open till 8-30 for the purpose of enabling those who could not attend the service to sign the Covenant, as follows:—

Being convinced, in our conscience, that Home Rule would be disastrous to the material well-being of Ulster, as well as to the whole of Ireland, subversive of our civil and religious freedom, destructive of our citizenship, and perilous to the unity of the Empire, we, whose names are underwritten, men of Ulster, loyal subjects of his Gracious Majesty King George V., humbly relying on the God whom our fathers in days of strife and trial confidently trusted, do hereby pledge ourselves in Solemn Covenant, throughout this our time of threatened calamity, to stand by one another in defending for ourselves and our children our cherished position of equal citizenship in the United Kingdom, and in using all means which may be found necessary to defeat the present conspiracy to set up a Home Rule Parliament in Ireland.

And in the event of such a Parliament being forced upon us, we further solemnly and mutually pledge ourselves to refuse to recognise its authority.

In sure confidence that God will defend the right, we hereby subscribe our names.

And, further, we individually declare that we have not already signed this Covenant.

The members of the Clubs were drilled and supplied with arms, and they subsequently were called the "Ulster Volunteers."

The Nationalists throughout Ireland also formed Volunteer Clubs and drilled. The formation of these corps naturally recalls to memory the Volunteers of former days, when Ulstermen flocked to the standard in a time of National danger. The first occasion on which we find the word "Volunteers" specially applied to military force, raised for such purposes, was in 1715, when "The Stuart Pretender" landed in Scotland. The next was in 1745, when a second "Pretender scare" took place; then in 1760, when the report was circulated that "The French are in the Bay." It was about this time that the people of Magherafelt considered they should do their part in making provision for the protection of their hearth and homes, and also to assist the Government in every way possible when attacked, and with those objects Volunteer Corps were formed, and the "First Magherafelt Volunteers" were amongst the first in Ireland to become association, which took place in June, 1773, their uniform being scarlet, faced with black. The officers were:—Captain, A. Tracy; lieutenant, Richard Dawson; ensign, R. Montgomery. The fact that there was a "First Company," shows that Magherafelt possessed at least a second company. That they were skilful and able to hold their own in competition with the other Corps, is evidenced by the fact that they possessed two silver medals—a no mean achievement—both obtained in the year 1781—one for skill with broadsword, and the other for the best target shot at 100 yards. This latter medal was won by a Patrick Fagan. The former medal was oval shaped and contained the following engraving:—Obverse side—Two Cavalry swords in saltire over the letters M.I.V.Y. (Magherafelt Independent Volunteer Yeomary). 1781. for skill with Broadsword. Reverse side—Pro Rege et Patria—below two sprays of Shamrock in the field and a harp royally crowned. The rim was raised, and there was a ring suspender. This medal is at present in the Belfast Museum, situated in portion of the Free Library. It seems that in 1782 the Volunteers were organised into Battalions and Brigades, and it is probable that the Magherafelt Companies formed part of the Loughinshollin Battalion, commanded by Colonel Staples and Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson. The Volunteer Regiments would be composed of from ten to twelve companies in each Regiment, and the number of men per Company varied from 60 to 100. Generally a Company was raised in each Parish where the number of Protestants rendered such possible, and where necessary two and in some cases three Parishes combined to form a Company. In towns it was usual to form one or more town Companies in addition to a Parish Company.

The Magherafelt Volunteers ~~were~~ part in the Volunteer display in Londonderry on the 10th and 11th August, 1780, where the Volunteers of the whole County were inspected by Lord Charlemont; they and the Kilrea Companies being led in the march past by Col. Robert Stewart, and it is reported that "promptitude and exactness were exhibited to a degree that reflected the highest honour both on the abilities of the officers and ~~the~~ expertness and attention of the "privates. The different battalions presented "arms as his Lordship passed along—the "officers saluting with much grace and "propriety." It also appears that on the 7th August, 1780, the Castledawson and Vintners, Bellaghy Corps, numbering 410 men, were reviewed by Col. Jones at Glengorm.

At a meeting of the Loughinshollin Battalion, held on the 3rd May, 1782, in Castledawson, Major Downing—in the absence of Col. Staples, and Lieutenant-Col. Dawson—occupied the chair, when the following Resolutions were passed. (They are taken from the Belfast News-Letter of Friday, May 10, to Tuesday, May 14, 1782.) Resolved— "That at this awful and important hour, when the fate of Ireland, as a Nation, is depending, it would be a dereliction of our rights longer to delay a publication of our sentiments. We are now in full possession of the several opinions and demands of our countrymen, armed and unarmed of the Volunteers and of the people of Ireland. We therefore, with hearts beating high for the honour of our King and the good of our country, do accede to the resolutions of the delegates assembled at Dungannon, on the 15th day of February last, as breathing the true spirit of loyalty, liberty and toleration, and will use every constitutional effort in support of such measures as may tend to promote the undoubted liberties of this Kingdom. Resolved— That the interests of Great Britain and Ireland are inseparable, and that any attempts to disunite them deserve the execrations and resentment of every friend to both. Resolved— That as we are willing to share her fate, so it is our determination to be free. Resolved— That the thanks of this Corps be given to those worthy, and independent members of Parliament who strenuously supported the rights and liberties of Ireland, and that we are happy in having this opportunity of expressing our most grateful acknowledgments to the Right Hon. Thomas Conolly, our General; Col. Staples and Lieut.-Col. Dawson for their generous donations, steady support, and particular attention to this battalion from its first formation. Resolved— That with heartfelt pleasure we reflect that the strictest harmony has ever subsisted in this battalion, and that our sentiments have, on his and every occasion, entirely coincided with those of our worthy commanders whose absence at this time is owing to their indispensable duty in Parliament. Resolved—

That our Chairman do immediately enclose these, our resolutions, to James Dawson, Esq., Secretary to the Dungannon Meeting Resolved—That Col. Staples and Lieut.-Col. Dawson be requested to confer with the other delegates of the Ulster Volunteers on all Constitutional measures and questions that may tend to the redress of grievances and injured rights of Ireland. Resolved—That our Chairman shall have these, our resolutions published in the Dublin Evening Post and Belfast News-Letter.

A meeting of the inhabitants of the Parish of Magherafelt was held in Magherafelt on Monday, the 5th day of May, 1782, pursuant to public notice. Mr. Henry Patterson presided, when the following resolutions were passed (they are taken from the Belfast News Letter of May 14, to May 17, 1782.)

Resolved—(1) That the welfare of the people ought to be the great design of every Government.

(2) That when the servants of the Crown by their corrupt influence attempt to undermine the rights of the people, it becomes the indispensable duty of each individual to use every Constitutional effort in their defence.

(3) That we most cordially approve of and accede to the Resolutions entered into at Dungannon by the delegates of the Volunteers assembled on the 25th February last, and the solemn declaration of the High Sheriffs, Grand Jurors, Freeholders and inhabitants of the City and County of Londonderry, convened at the last Assizes, both which Resolutions and Solemn Declaration merit and shall receive our most determined support.

(4) That we have with admiration beheld the efforts of those distinguished and illustrious citizens who formerly composed the minority of the Irish Parliament in asserting with such uncommon ability and unwearied zeal, the rights of Ireland, rejoicing that their able reasonings, seconded by the voice of the people, have forced conviction on every mind, and brought both Houses of Parliament unanimously to speak the sentiments of the people in stating and claiming the ancient rights of this Kingdom—rights which ought to be asserted at every risk, and to be torn from us only with our lives.

(5) We rejoice that those obstructions which so diverted the rays of royal beneficence have been removed by placing around the Throne men of the most approved worth, and who possess the entire confidence of the people, and we trust a similar change of men and measures will take place in this Kingdom, which, we are persuaded, would produce the most happy results.

(6) That such members as act contrary to the inclinations and the interests of their constituents, or endeavour by absence when

important Constitutional questions are depending in the House, to avoid both Ministerial Vergorge and popular odium, are unworthy of future confidence, and that therefore on every subsequent election we will support with our votes and interest such candidates as are most distinguished for integrity and patriotic conduct.

(7) That the interests of Great Britain and Ireland are indissolubly united, and by our being admitted into an equal share of the benefits of the British connection, the bonds of mutual interest and cordial affection will be rendered firm and permanent.

(8) That the thanks of this meeting be presented to our worthy Chairman for his very proper conduct in the chair.

(9) That the following gentlemen:—Major Paterson, Rev. Mr. Downing, Rev. Mr. Chambers, Rev. Mr. Henry, Rev. Mr. Wilson, Mr. Henry Paterson, Mr. Caldwell, Captain Tracy, Mr. Robert Crawford, Mr. Samuel Crawford, Mr. Andrew Torrens, Mr. Therdore Williams, Mr. Hugh Crawford, Mr. Thomas Pollock, Mr. Abraham Matthews, Mr. Richard Dawson Mr. Samuel Streat, Mr. Quinten Dick, Mr. John Glenholme, and Mr. Samuel Brown (five to be a quorum) be appointed a Committee to convene the inhabitants of this Parish when they shall think it necessary, and to correspond with the Committees of the other parishes, who may associate for similar purposes.

The Volunteer Yeomany raised in 1797, was under the supervision and control of the War Department, but the information in reference to this force is in the possession of the Government, and is not available unless by special permission of the Secretary of State.

The people of the district had to provide for the expense of supplying men to the Militia, for in 1795 the General Vestry which met during Easter week, resolved that a sum of £36 be levied for six substitutes for the Militia—this being the number appointed by the Governors of the County to be raised by the Parish, and on the 1st August, 1803, a meeting was held pursuant to public notice, "in order to take the sense of the Parish "whether they would raise their quota of men "for the 'Army of Reserve' by Parish, Cess or "ballot. It was determined, by a great "majority, that it should be raised by Cess, "and that £150 be apportioned and levied off "said Parish by the acre, and that Richard "James (he was the first Clerk of the Union) "and John Graham—the present Church- "wardens, are empowered to apportion and levy "same—Yeomany to be exempt."

On the 5th October following the apportionment for the raising of the Cess for this purpose was read at a meeting of the Vestry, approved and 'finally ascertained'—viz., £146 18s 11d. The account was as follows:—

ARMY OF RESERVE ACT, 1803.

| | |
|--|------------|
| John Graham, Magherafelt. | Dr. |
| Amount of allotment | £146 18 11 |
| Contra. | Cr. |
| To paid for a band | £0 2 7½ |
| „ Parish Lists and Advertisements | 0 1 4½ |
| „ Cash paid Sergeant of Artillery for Recruits | 0 10 10 |
| „ Paid Wm. Thompson for 2 Recruits | 0 10 10 |
| „ Other Recruits—4 Recruits | 1 1 8 |
| „ For Cockades—13 in number | 0 7 0½ |
| „ My Expenses attending different Meetings at Dungannon | 0 10 3½ |
| „ Paid Horse hire, etc., for a man to Derry | 1 5 3½ |
| „ Allowed the Recruits Marching Money | 0 14 1 |
| „ Cash lost by a Recruit Rejected | 2 17 1½ |
| „ 8 Guineas each to 13 men | 100 4 0 |
| „ Deficiency returned by Collector against H. Paterson, Archibald Hamilton and James Patterson, Esqrs. | 12 17 6 |
| „ Postage on letters to Major Cameron about subsistence | 0 8 4 |
| „ Fees paid the Collector | 4 11 0 |
| „ Cess on Yeomanry—48 acres—not known at time of Applotment | 1 14 0 |
| „ Balance in hands now paid | 10 2 1 |
| | £146 18 11 |

On the 30th October, 1807, a meeting of the Vestry was held by Order of the Lord Lieutenant, when it was resolved that the sum of 120 guineas, for the purpose of raising 12 men for the Militia, be levied, and two men were appointed for each townland for the purpose of Collecting Voluntary Subscriptions, amounting to not less than 2s 6d per man from those who were liable to serve, but had no land, and those who refused to contribute were to be deprived of any benefit from the Parish Assessment. The account presented was as follows:—

MILITIA CESS.

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Parish Cess | £141 6 8½ |
| Amount of Contributions | 30 7 6 |
| | £171 14 2½ |
| Cash paid Bounty for 12 men | £136 10 0 |
| „ „ Enlisting 12 men | 12 0 0 |
| „ „ Band | 0 13 8½ |
| „ „ Recruit who did not Pass | 1 14 1½ |
| „ „ Applotters' Fees | 0 10 0 |
| „ „ Passing 12 men | 0 13 0 |
| „ „ Paper for 12 men | 0 2 6 |
| Balance | 19 10 10½ |
| | £171 14 2½ |

The balance appears to have been handed to the new Churchwardens. And to encourage the raising of men to serve, the Church-

wardens were, on the 5th November, 1807, empowered to give a sum not exceeding 20s to any person who would bring forward a Militia Volunteer. There is no record in the Vestry Book whether that amount had ever been claimed. In 1810 £91 was assessed for raising 8 men to serve on the Londonderry Militia, and as substitutes for such, 8 men as might be drawn at the ensuing ballot, and 5d an acre was directed to be apportioned and levied off the parish for that purpose, also a poll tax of 3s 4d. It was further resolved "that where the head of a family, not himself liable to be drawn, shall pay a land tax amounting to 3s 4d, his or her eldest son liable to be drawn, shall be exempt from the poll tax mentioned, and as a punishment for those who refused to pay either the land tax or poll tax, on or before the 8th May, 1811, "and who should happen to be drawn to serve, "it was decided that they were not to receive "any part of the money or derive any "benefit."

INTERESTING COMMISSIONS.

Dear Sir,—In the instalments of the above History, giving the names of the residents of Magherafelt Parish in 1766, I noticed the name of my great-grandfather, James Duncan, and it may be of interest to state that he was the father of John, and the grandfather of James and Robert Duncan, who were successively managers of the Northern Bank and the Salters' Estate at Magherafelt. These were Ulstermen who made good at home, without going to a new country.

I notice in a later instalment a reference to the Yeomanry Corps established by the Act 42, George III., and I append copies of two Commissions conferred on my maternal grandfather, Robert Steele, which will be of interest to the descendants of the men who served in these Corps upwards of 100 years ago.

It will be noticed the first Commission of 1802 is to raise and arm the Bellaghy Infantry, and the second is to raise and arm the Bellaghy and Castledawson Yeomanry. The original Commissions are in my possession. Both are signed in ink, but I cannot make out the signatures.

Yours, etc.,

JOSEPH COURTNEY DUNCAN.

Portlengone,
June 17, 1914.

BY THE LORD LIEUTENANT GENERAL
AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF
IRELAND.

RICHMOND.

Whereas an Act has passed in the Session of Parliament, held in the 42d. Year of His Majesty's Reign, entitled, "An Act to enable His Majesty to accept and continue the services of certain Troops or Companies of Yeomanry in Ireland." And whereas His Majesty has been graciously pleased by His Warrant under His Royal Sign Manual, bearing Date at His Court at Saint James's, on the 20th day of September, 1796, to give to Us full Power and Authority to Issue Commissions in His Name to such Persons as we shall deem expedient for His Majesty's Services, for levying Armed Corps within this Kingdom, for the Preservation of the Public Peace, and to quell Insurrection and resist Invasion. Now We, deeming it expedient for the Purposes aforesaid, to raise an Armed Corps in the County of Londonderry, to be called the Bellaghy Infantry, and having Trust and Confidence in the Courage and Loyalty of Robert Steele, Esquire, do by Virtue of the said Authority, in His Majesty's Name, and in Conformity to the above recited Act, by these Presents, constitute and appoint the said Robert Steele, Esquire, to be second Lieutenant to that Corps, commanded by T. Spotswood, Esquire, and called the Bellaghy Infantry (but not to take Rank in His Majesty's Army except during the Time the said Corps shall, in consequence of their voluntary Offer, be called out into actual Service.) You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of second Lieutenant, by exercising and well-disciplining both the inferior Officers and Soldiers of that Corps.

And we do hereby command them to obey you as their second Lieutenant, and you are to observe and follow such Orders and Directions from Time to Time, as you shall receive from your Captain, or any other of your superior Officers, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, in pursuance of the Trust hereby reposed in you. Given at His Majesty's Castle of Dublin, the 22d. day of August, 1802, in the forty-seventh year of His Majesty's Reign.

By His Grace's Command.

Robert Steele, Esquire, to be
second Lieutenant in the
Bellaghy Corps of Infantry.

BY THE LORD LIEUTENANT GENERAL
AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF
IRELAND.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

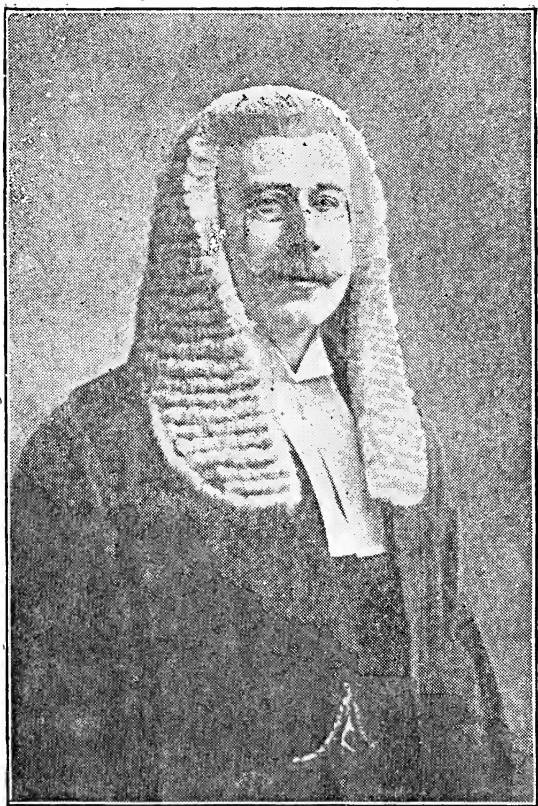
WHEREAS an Act was passed in the Session of Parliament, held in the 42d. Year of the Reign of His late Majesty George the III., entitled, "An Act to enable His Majesty to accept and continue the Services of certain Troops or Companies of Yeomanry in Ireland." And Whereas His Majesty has been graciously pleased by his Warrant under His Royal Sign Manual, bearing Date at His Court at Carlton House, on the 10th day of February, 1820, to give to Us full Power and Authority to issue Commissions in His Name to such Persons as We shall deem expedient for His Majesty's Service, for levying Armed Corps within this Kingdom, for the Preservation of the Public Peace, and to quell Insurrection and resist Invasion. Now we, deeming it expedient for the Purposes aforesaid, to raise an armed Corps in the County of Londonderry, to be called the Bellaghy and Castledawson Yeomanry, and having Trust and Confidence in the Courage and Loyalty of Robert Steele, Esquire, do by Virtue of the said Authority, in His Majesty's Name, and in Conformity to the above recited Act, by these Presents, constitute and appoint the said Robert Steele, to be First Lieutenant to that Corps, commanded by Captain James Henry, and called the Bellaghy and Castledawson Yeomanry (but not to take Rank in His Majesty's Army except during the Time the said Corps shall, in consequence of their voluntary Offer, be called out into actual Service.) You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of First Lieutenant, by exercising and well-disciplining both the inferior Officers and Soldiers of that Corps.

And we do hereby command them to obey you as their First Lieutenant, and you are to observe and follow such Orders and Directions from Time to Time, as you shall receive from your Captain, or any other of your superior Officers, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, in pursuance of the Trust hereby reposed in you.

Given at His Majesty's Castle of Dublin, the 28th day of March, in the tenth Year of His Majesty's Reign.

By His Grace's Command.

Robert Steele, Esquire, to be
First Lieutenant in the
Bellaghy and Castledawson
Corps of Yeomanry.



HIS HONOUR JUDGE TODD, K.C.,
Recorder of Londonderry.



THE LATE T. G. OVEREND, K.C.,
Recorder of Londonderry.



HIS HONOUR JUDGE JOHNSTON, K.C.,
Recorder of the Counties of Fermanagh
and Monaghan.

THE TERRIER OF 1752.

The following, culled from "The Terrier," published by the Salters' Company for the half-year ended 1st November, 1752, may prove interesting, as showing the condition of the townlands owned by the Company at that period, the principal occupiers, the area and rent payable, and the description of the class of houses then in existence. It seems that the Creaghs (or creats) were nomads who wandered about the county with flocks and herds, building huts where the pasture was plentiful, and removing from place to place as necessity arose. They were governed by a chief. The meaning of each townland is given and was obtained from the Ordnance Survey Office, Phoenix Park, Dublin:—

AGHAGASKIN (OR O'GASKIN'S FIELD.)

Thomas Kempton and George Stewart, 127a. 2r. Op.; rent, £15 12s 9½d.

The Trustees of the Dissenters, 53a. 1r. Op.; rent, £2 0s 0d.

James Bowman and James Semple, 53a. 1r. Op.; rent, £4 13s 2d.

Widow O'Neill, Benjamin Redfern, and Abraham Keightly, 132a. 1r. Op.; rent, £8 3s 8d.

Edward Beatty and Thomas Graves, 75a. 2r. Op.; rent, £8 0s 8½d.

All low cabins in this townland. Great part of the land moss and scrub of wood and bog.

AUGHRIM (THE RIDGE OF THE HORSES.)

James M'Cleery, Henry Fullerton, Richard Lennox and Partners, 197a. 3r. Op.; rent, £18 5s 10½d.

One small bleach-yard and tolerable farm-house in this townland. The rest poor cabins. Most of the land scrub of wood, moss and bog.

BELLAGHERTY (AGHERTY'S TOWN.)

John M'Williams' Executors, Philip O'Donachey and Partners, Phelamy Donachey and Partners, 232a. 2r. Op.; rent, £23 0s 9d.

In this townland is one tolerable farm-house, possessed by M'Williams' Widow; the rest poor Irish creats. Great part of land scrub of wood, moss and bog.

BALLYCUMLARGY (TOWN OF THE CROOKED SLOPE OR DECLIVITY.)

John M'Geown and David Crosit, 120a. 3r. Op.; rent, £11 14s 5½d.

On this townland is one tolerable farm-house, the rest cabins. Only a small part moss, the rest arable and pasture.

BALLYDONNELL (DONNELL'S TOWN.)

George Henderson, Wm. Baxter and Partners, John Workman, Bryan Kelly and Partners, 245a. 3r. Op.; rent, £27 19s 6d.

In this town are two tolerable farm-houses, the remainder cabins. Part of this was the domain of Salterstown Castle—mostly arable and pasture, except some moss.

BALLYMULTREA (O'MULTREA'S TOWN.)

Andrew Bell, Widow Tracey, Bryan M'Guekin, Widow Taylor and Others, 258a.; rent, £29 2s 0½d.

In this town stands the walls of Salterstown Castle, which was burnt in 1688, with two tolerable farm houses and a corn mill; great part shrub of wood, whins and some bog.

BALLYGILLEN-MORE (MAGILLIAN'S TOWN.)

William Ramsay, 196a. 3r. Op.; rent, £30.

One good farm house and some poor Irish creats in this townland. The greatest part of it is shrub of wood, rocks, bog and some moss.

BALLYGILLEN-BEG (MAGILLIAN'S TOWN.)

Philemy Gorery, Miles M'Phillone, John O'Cahan, and Rodger O'Coshally, 192a. 3r. Op.; rent, £17 5s 10d.

All poor creats in this townland: mostly shrub of wood, bog and moss.

BALLYDERMOTT (DERMOT'S TOWN), AND EDENREAGH (GREY BROW OR BRAE.)

John Downing, Esq., 331a. 3r. Op.; rent, £25.

On one of these townlands there is a good house built by Rev. Simon Roe, the rest, poor cottages, inhabited by poor Irish.

BALLYMULDERG (O'MULDERG'S TOWN.)

Patrick O'Mullan, Wm. Johnston, Charles O'Neill, Bryan M'Guiggan and Partners, Patrick O'Cullian, Francis Banderman, Ralph Beatty, Henry M'Conwell, Anthony Berri-man, 377a. 3r. Op.; rent, £35 3s 4½d.

In this townland is one good farm-house and one other tolerable house, the rest cabins and Irish creats; very little arable land, being mostly covered with shrub of wood, rocks, moss and bog.

BALLYNEILL-MORE (O'NEILL'S TOWN.)

One good farm-house and very good offices, built by the late Mr. Neire, when he was ranger of the Society's woods; the rest cabins and Irish creats.

BALLYHAVOR (IVORSTOWN.)

Robert Birkby, 99a. 3r. Op.; moss, 45a.; rent, £8 19s 9½d.

Remainder of this townland let in small parcels to the town. Great part of this townland shrub of wood and bog. The moss supplies the inhabitants of the town of Magherafelt and some of the country with firing.

BALLYMOGHAN-MORE (O'MOGHAN'S TOWN.)

Widow Gilmer and Partners, Mrs. Warburton, 303a. 2r. Op.; rent, £20 14s 0d.

Two small farm-houses in this townland, and some poor cabins; most of the townland shrub of wood, rock, moss and bog.

BALLYMOGHAN-BEG (O'MOGHAN'S TOWN.)

Samuel Thompson and Partners, James Campbell, Thomas Shannon, and Samuel Finley's Executors, 214a. 1r. Op.; £24 19s 2½d.

One tolerable farm-house and offices, the rest poor cabins. There is 33a. 2r. Op. of moss.

BALLYRONAN-MORE AND BEG (O'RONAN'S TOWN.)

Executors of Rowley Hill, Esq., 161a. 0r. Op.; rent, £12 0s 0d.

Priest O'Cor, 29a. 2r. Op.; £2 10s 0d.

Joseph Beatty, 80a. 1r. Op.; £10 0s 7½d.

Rev. John Graves and David Gausson, 104a. 0r. Op.; rent, £11 14s 0d.

Robert Maxwell, 88a. 0r. Op.; £11 15s 0d.

John Hammond, 44a. 0r. Op.; £3 15s 0d.

In these townlands are five tolerable farm-houses. There are a good many cabins and creats. Great part shrubs of wood, bog, rocks and stoney ground.

BALLYNAGARVE (TOWN OF THE ROUGHNESS.)

Cormack M'Elhone and Partners, 61a. 0r. Op.; rent, £6 15s 8d.

James Burnett, 79a. 2r. Op.; £6 15s 0d.

James Brown and Partners, 63a. 3r. Op.; rent, £5 17s 6d.

Edward Mulholland, Owen M'Laughlin and Partners, 61a. 0r. Op.; £5 18s 9d.

All cabins and Irish creats in this townland.

BALLYMILLIGAN (O'MULLIGAN'S TOWN.)

One small farm-house in this townland, and a small bleach-yard, the rest cabins and Irish creats.

DRUMRAINEY (RIDGE OF THE FERNS.)

Owen M'Gurk and Partners, 53a.; rent, £6 6s 10½d.

Thomas Stanton and Partners, 49a. 2r.; rent, £4 6s 1d.

Arthur Forbes and Partners, 50a. 2r.; rent, £3 12s 9d.

Two cabins and Irish creats—29 acres of moss reserved.

DUNARNON (ARNON'S DUN OR FORT.)

Wm. Creighton, 61a. 2r.; rent, £6 13s 3d.

George Patterson and Partners, 72a.; rent, £7 5s 0d.

Moss reserved, 51a. 2r.

A small tanyard and three small farm-houses—very little arable land.

DUNAMONEY (FORT OF THE BOG.)

Wm. and John Lees, John Brown, Wm. Fleming, Robert Wilson, 213a. 2r. Op.; rent, £27 18s 10d.

In this townland and part of Ballyhavor stands a corn mill and wind mill with two good farm-houses, some cabins and Irish creats. The wind mill belongs to the Rev. Robert Bryan and the rent £5.

KILLYBOGAN (WOOD OF THE BOG.)

Wm. Porter, Andw. Brook, David Cullen and Partners, Wm. and John Johnston, 177a. 3r.; rent, £18 10s 4½d.

Some moss reserved. Rev. Robert Bryans, for the mills, rent £20. In this townland a corn mill, some cabins and Irish creats.

KILLYNEESE (AENEAS'S WOOD.)

Patrick Dondle, John Adgers' Widow, John Bunton, 227a.; rent, £14 5s 4½d. Bog reserved.

KILLYFADDY (LONG WOOD.)

Mr. Wm. Johnston, 371a.; rent, £20 8s 0d.

In this townland there is one good farm-house and offices, and a few cabins and Irish creats.

LECKA (HILL SIDE.)

Hugh O'Neill and Partners, 66a.; rent, £8 4s 4d.

There are only three cabins in this townland. The greatest part of the land let to the town. Most shrub of wood, moss and bog.

MULLAGHBOY (THE YELLOW SUMMIT.)

John Ramsay's executors—William Given, Mrs. Warburton, 127a. 0r. Op.; rent, £19 14s 6½d.

There are only some cabins and Irish creats in this townland. The greatest part of the townland held by the inhabitants of the town of Magherafelt.

**MOYMUCKLE-MURRAY (MACGIL-
MURRY'S PLAIN).**

John Harris, 38a. Or. Op.; rent, £5 4s 6d; David Adams and Partners, 99a. Or. Op.; rent, £12 2s 0d; John M'Cord, 39a. 3r. Op.; rent, £5 9s 4d.

Three tolerable farm houses in this townland, and some cabins. All arable and pasture except some moss and bog, about 12 acres.

**POLEPATRICK (PATRICK'S HOLE OR
CAVERN).**

Richard Whiteside, 40a. Or. Op.; rent, £5 10s 0d.

The remainder of this townland let to the people of Magherafelt.

One tolerable farm house. All arable pasture.

ROSHURE (POINT OF THE YEW).

Henry and Job Palmer, 127a. Or. Op.; rent, £9.

Two small farm houses. All arable and pasture except 30 acres of moss, bog, and moor.

TILLINKISIE (LINCHY'S HILL).

William and Ben Brown, Manus Mulholland, James M'Naught and Partners, William Akein and John Tomb, Edward Whiteside and Partners (Forge Dam), 270a. Or. Op.; rent, £23 1s 11½d.

All poor cabins and Irish creats. Very little arable land, being mostly shrub of wood, bog and rocks.

RECORDS OF 1821.

In the issue of "The Mid-Ulster Mail" of 22nd March, 1813, the following account of Magherafelt in 1821, from Pigot and Co.'s Hibernian Provincial Directory, was published:—

MAGHERAFELT IN 1821.

Magherafelt is a small neat market and post town in the county of Derry, 91 miles north by west of Dublin, by the post road, 2 miles from Castledawson, 4 from Moneymore, 5 from Toome, 7 from Cookstown, and 28 from Belfast. In the year 1680 Hugh Rainey, Esq., left an annuity of 175 pounds per annum for the support and education of as many boys, as the sum (after deducting the salary of the schoolmaster and the housekeeper) would allow; the number is generally from 12 to 14; they are maintained three years, afterwards apprenticed, with an extra suit of clothes and fifty shillings, which are placed in the hands of their master, and, at the expiration of their service, given to them towards their beginning business. Here is also a Sunday school for children of all religious denominations. The church is a neat stone edifice, with a lofty spire, of which the Rev. Thomas A. Vesey is the present rector. Here are also a Presbyterian meeting-house and a Catholic chapel. In the centre of the town stands the market-house, possessing a good clock, and over it is a ball-room. At the lower end of the town is the Sessions' House, where the sessions are held twice a year for civil bills and criminal offences; adjoining it is the Linen Hall. A court leet is also held here every month for the recovery of debts under forty shillings. The proprietors of this town are the Marquis of Londonderry and Sir Robert Bateson, who hold it under a lease from the London Company. The general market is held on Thursday, and a good one for linen on the second Thursday in every month. There are fairs on August 25th, October 29th, and December 29th. The population is 1,100.

Post Office—Post Master, Mr. Thomas Dickson. The Dublin mail is despatched to Cookstown at twenty minutes past ten in the morning, and arrives at half-past three in the afternoon. The Londonderry and Belfast mails leave at three-quarters past three in the afternoon and arrive at half-past seven in the evening. A by-mail to Tobermore and Maghera at half-past seven in the evening. Letters for England go by Dublin, those for Scotland by Belfast.

Gentry and Clergy—Ash, Miss, Charity Street; Bamber, George, Esq., Millbrook; Bell, Humphrey, Esq., Warwick Lodge; Bryan, Josh., Esq., seneschal, Broad Street; Paterson, Captain Thomas; Paul, Rev. Thos.

rector of Ballinderry; Vesey, Rev. Thomas A., rector, Glebe House; Walker John, Esq., agent to the Belfast Northern Bank, Charity Street; Wilson, Rev. James, Fairview.

MERCHANTS, TRADESMEN, Etc.

Physicians—Evans, Robert, Broad Street.

Surgeons—Shannon, Dr.; Wilson, William, Diamond.

Attorneys—Chambers, David, Broad Street; Dickson, Thomas, Charity Street; Gausson, Charles, Diamond.

Surveyors of Excise—James, Richard, Esq., Broad Street.

Coroner—M'Kee, David (and high constable of the barony).

Linen Inspector—Boyle, Henderson, Esq., Charity Street.

Publicans, &c.—Alexander, Isaac, Pass; Brown, Wm., Pass; Campbell James, Charity Street; Cochran, John, Charity Street; Cousley, John, Pass, Devlin, John, parish clerk; Donnelly, Charles, Castle Street; Ferguson, Wm., Broad Street; Hagan, John, Pass; Holden, Richard, Broad Street; Hutchinson, James, Charity Street; Johnston, James, Diamond; M'Falls, Thomas, Diamond; M'Quade, James, Charity Street; Marks, Wm., Castle Street; Mason, Wm., Charity Street; Thompson, Sarah, innkeeper; Walsh, Michael, Pass.

Shopkeepers, Traders, &c.—Adams, Joshua, watch and clock-maker, Broad Street; Armstrong, John, wheelwright, Broad Street; Cochran, Robert, grocer, Charity Street; Cullin, Mary, haberdasher, Charity Street; Dawson, Arthur, grocer and spirit dealer, Castle Street; Duncan, David, woollen draper, Charity Street; Duncan, John, grocer, Broad Street; Duncan, Robt., grocer, Broad Street; Duncan, W., grocer, Charity Street; Graham, David, woollen draper and haberdasher, Charity Street; Graham, John, haberdasher; Hughes, James, grocer and ironmonger, Broad Street; Hull, John, grocer and baker, Diamond; Johnston, Michael, tanner, Ballyheifer; Johnson, Samuel, grocer, Charity Street; Kirkpatrick, John, carpenter and glazier, Corn Lane; Kirkpatrick, John, grocer, Charity Street; Leo, Hugh, grocer, Pass; Love, John, grocer and hardware dealer, Charity Street; M'Davitt, Margaret, woollen draper, Charity Street; M'Ginnis, Charles, tailor, Pass; M'Kee, Thomas, wheelwright, Charity Street; M'Lernon, Thomas, grocer, Castledawson Street; Oakman, Walter, baker and flour dealer, Castledawson Street; Richardson, Henry, boot and shoemaker, Pass; Sands, Robert,

grocer, Charity Street; Smith, George, wheelwright, Castle-Dawson Street; Vance, James, watch and clock maker, Broad Street; Walker, John, linen buyer, Charity Street; Wilson, Mary Jane, haberdasher; Workman, James, painter and glazier, Broad Street.

Coach, &c.—Belfast, the Union Day Coach, from Thomas M'Falls, Diamond, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at seven in the morning, and returns on alternate days, at eight in the evening.

Goods may be conveyed to any part of the kingdom, by hiring cars for the purpose.

* * *

The Government, in the early part of the Nineteenth Century, considered it so important to preserve the traditions, &c., of the Country, that they decided to publish an exhaustive account of each parish in Ireland. With that object in view they, in 1829, appointed a special staff to visit the different parishes and obtain all available information. It seems the officials were engaged for a number of years in that work, and in 1836 one of them, a Thomas Fagan, visited Magherafelt. When their mission had been completed the particulars in respect of the Parish of Templemore, near Derry, was, it seems, the only one printed, owing to the cost far exceeding that contemplated. The labours of that highly paid staff, lie in the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, and can be consulted by any one interested in the history of their locality.

The following is an abridged account taken from Mr. Fagan's information:—

Magherafelt consists of four principal streets, which meet at the extremities of a square called "The Diamond," in the centre of the town.

The principal street is Broad Street, which is 110 yards long and 90 feet wide. Charity Street (now Rainey Street), so called from the Charity School being situated in it. It is 396 yards long and 50 feet wide. Meeting Street extended for 280 yards from the Diamond. Castle-dawson Street (now Church Street) extends 200 yards from Broad Street. The Diamond is an oblong square 180 yards by 45 yards. The houses in it are tolerably regular and uniform and of a good description. They are all either one or two storey and mostly inhabited by respectable merchants and shopkeepers. The houses in Broad Street are, with a few exceptions, of an excellent description and fairly uniform. The street is prettily terminated by the Church and parsonage. About the latter there are some 'Plantings' which added greatly to the appearance of the town. The houses in Charity Street, as approached from the

centre of the town, are of a good description and uniform, but towards the outskirts they are of an inferior quality and chiefly inhabited by the lower classes. The Pass consists of two-storied houses, inhabited by publicans, dealers, &c. Castledawson Street, which was situated on the Belfast Road, was almost inhabited by tradespeople, the houses mostly one-storey and thatched. Meeting Street consisted of a single row of houses, the majority of which were two-storey and inhabited mostly by tradesmen, and, though substantial, were not very neat or clean.

Magherafelt contained 221 houses, of which there were 49 one-storied, 141 two-storied, and 31 three-storied houses. They were mostly of a neat and substantial description and generally possess a good yard and garden. Up to about the year 1790 many of the houses were built of wood, and most of them shingled (wood instead of slates), but the only shingled building remaining was the Presbyterian meeting-house, which had been built in 1736.

Magherafelt was neither a commercial nor manufacturing town, the only manufacture being that of linen; and its trade—except the purchase of linen, pork and grain, was carried on by retail. The want of water power was a disadvantage, there being nothing more than an inconsiderable rivulet, which barely afforded water power for the brewery, situated at a short distance from the town.

The town is well and regularly supplied with butchers' meat of good quality. Beef sold at from 3½d to 5d per lb., and mutton from 4d to 5d per lb. Mutton was becoming scarce and sheep almost disappearing from the country. Poultry, fruit, milk and butter were also well supplied and at reasonable prices. Vegetables—except leeks and onions, and occasionally a few cabbages—were rarely offered for sale. There was not any market gardening nor dairying. The grazing for cattle let at from £2 10s 0d to £3 5s 0d for each cow for the Summer's grass.

Belfast was the great Market for Pork, and a considerable number of pigs were driven there for sale. A good many pigs and a few young heifers were bought by dealers for exportation. A little flax had been shipped this year (1836) for Dundee. A lot of oats and wheat, bought in the market, was transported by lighters from Ballyronan to Belfast and Newry. There was no regular provision for the poor, except the usual collection on Sundays, in addition to the interest of £100, which was distributed annually to poor Protestant

roomkeepers. The Presbyterians distributed their collections amongst their own poor, the Roman Catholics likewise, but the Church of Ireland (the then Established Church) distributed equally amongst all.

The inhabitants were not very prone to amusement. They had, however, a subscription pack of hounds, which met twice weekly during the season, and cockfighting took place on Easter Monday. They were sociable and hospitable, united in themselves, and attentive to strangers. The upper classes, though they could not be termed rich, were affluent and comfortable, and being much alike as to circumstances, probably made them so intimate. The middle classes and those in business were comfortable in their circumstances and manner of living. They were industrious, quiet, peaceable and very obliging, and there was no town where there was more domestic peace or security, and where the laws or their officers were more feared or respected.

Timber and slates were procured from Ballyronan. These were brought by water from Belfast to Ballyronan: their carriage to Magherafelt costing three-halfpence per cwt. The usual cost of pine timber at Ballyronan was 1s 9d per cubic foot, and memal from 2s 5d to 2s 6d per foot. Slates were usually sold at Ballyronan:—Countess, £6 15s 0d per thousand, and Ladies, £3 17s 0d per thousand. Bricks at the kilns, which were situated in Ballyscullion Parish, cost 10s per 100, and lime, when laid down, cost 1s 1d per barrel. Stones of an excellent description were abundant everywhere about the town. English coal at Ballyronan cost 24s to 28s per ton, and Scotch 18s to 20s per ton. Turf, however, was chiefly used and cost, when laid down, from £2 15s 0d to £3 5s 0d per 100 gages. In about eighteen or twenty years time the town, and indeed the entire estate, would be badly off for firing, as the bogs will be nearly all cut about that time.

The Orangemen were very numerous and well armed, and celebrated the Twelfth of July. The Freemasons celebrated the 24th June. On Patrick's Day, 1825, the Ribbonmen attempted to walk through the town. They were, however, warned not to come, but they persisted, and about twenty of the tradesmen fired at them, dispersing them and killing one of their number.

According to the report of Mr. Fagan the machinery and manufactories of the Parish of Magherafelt consisted of a Tanyard, a Brewery, a Corn Mill, and a house for boiling and bleaching yarn.

The tanning of leather was one of the trades thought fit to be introduced at the Plantation. Where the first Tanyard was established is purely a matter of conjecture, as there is no record extant—so far as is known, which contains that information. In the year, 1836, the Tanyard was situated on the premises now occupied by Mr. Frank Harbison, Ballyheifer, where at one period a very extensive and lucrative business was carried on. There was also a Tanyard situated in the townland of Dunarnon, a little below the house now occupied by Mr. James Badger, jun., in the year 1752, but the trade in both places has ceased for a considerable period.

The Brewery.—There is no satisfactory evidence available as to when the Brewing of Malt, etc., first took place in Magherafelt. In 1752 the town possessed both a Malt House and a Malt Kiln, but it is not known where they were situated. The Brewery, at a later date, was situated in Union Road, at the premises now occupied by Mr. Matthew Erans. It was established in 1825, its machinery being propelled by a breast water wheel twenty feet in diameter, and two feet three inches broad. One copper contained forty, and the other twenty-five barrels, and the Mash Kieve was eight feet in diameter and four feet deep. It is said that there was an underground passage from Rose Lodge to where the Brewery was situated, and also that Old Dick Donnelly, who resided in Church Street, constructed an underground passage from the Brewery to the garden on the opposite side of the road, where, it is alleged, distilling took place so that it would escape the notice of the Gauger. The object succeeded for a time, but eventually Mr. Bryans (who owned the brewery), was found out, prosecuted by the Government and heavily fined. Subsequently it gave place to the coach factory. The old brewery chimney is still in existence.

The corn mill was situated in the townland of Polepatrick, and belonged to the Cassidy family. It is at present rented by Messrs. Cudden, of Killynease.

The house for boiling yarn was situated in Killyfaddy on Messrs. Walker's premises, but it has not been used for a considerable number of years. There was another boiling house erected at Leckagh, and belonged to the late Mr. James Harbison. It also has shared the fate of Mr. Walker's.

In 1836 the people of the parish were chiefly of English or Scotch descent (chiefly Scotch), and the principal settlement took place after the Battle of the Boyne and Siege of Derry. Amongst those, it seems, who came over with King William's army were representatives of the family of Ash, some of whom held high commands in his army.

The Johnstons who also served in the same army, settled in the parish about the year 1700, and the first house they erected was standing in Ballymoghgan in 1836.

In Mr. Fagan's record the following names predominate:—

In Aghagaskin the names of Keightley, Bowman, Redfern, and Scilly. In Tamnadda those of Kane and Love. In Ballynocker, Garvan, Reynolds, Scilly and Bradley. In Tullylinksay, those of Stewart, Nodwell, Brown and M'Night. In Annaghmore, Pickram, Kirkwood, Love, Hawthorn, Evans, Bell, Dawson and Nodwell. In Killyneese, Bell, Bradley, Lees, York, Foster, Love and Kelly. In Ballyheifer, Bradley, Donnelly, Halferty, Connor and Keenan. In Killyfaddy, Duncan, Stewart, Lees, M'Atcer. In Ballymoghgan, Steele, Brown, Gilmour, Shannou, Quigley, Badger, M'Master. In Cooishinney, Burrows, Wiley, Dornan, Duncan, Ferris and Farrel. In Dunamoney, Brown. In Megargy, Duncan, Nogher and Carr. In Dunarnon, Bradley and Donnelly. In Muliaghboy, Lidsay, Wilson, Redfern and Kieft. In Shanemullagh, Hillman, Morrow, Dawson and Kane.

The Castle, which was described in the Survey of 1618 as being then in course of erection, was destroyed during the Rebellion of 1641. It was rebuilt in 1677 by Gabriel Whistler—the then lessee of the Salters' Estate. It was again destroyed at the time of the Seige of Derry by portion of James' army. In the lease of 1699 the said Gabriel Whistler agreed "to repair and, if need be, 'now build the Castle or Fort in Maghera-felt," and in the Journal of Col. Thomas Ash, there appears an entry in the year 1703 of sand, lime, etc., having been drawn by him for its repair. It seems the Castle was situated in the Diamond, for in lowering it in 1799, 1811 and 1815 large portions of the Cellar Walls of an Ancient Castle were dug up. The site is now partly occupied by the Diamond, and partly by the range of houses situated from what is commonly known as "Hull's Corner," to Mr. Felix Ferran's dwelling-house, and Mr. Ferran, in making improvements some short time ago, came upon a wall five feet broad, which is supposed to be portion of the walls of the Old Castle.

From the "Terrior" (rental) of 1845, issued by the Salters' Company, it appears there were twelve quarries situated on the Estate, and in Ballymoghgan and Gortagilly there were two lime kilns working. The one in Ballymoghgan was let to James Steele at £50, and the one in Gortagilly to a man named Steele at £80, but subsequently, on Robert M'Kee acquiring it, the rent was reduced to £30. It is also stated in the Terrior that the Earl of Bristol (who was also

Bishop of Derry) was the first originator of lime burning in the County.

The following information was also obtained in 1836 by Mr. Fagan, from persons in each of the townlands named:—

With the exception of the Old Church in Magherafelt, the Parish could not lay claim to any other Old Ecclesiastical Buildings. It seems, however, that there were two old burial grounds unconnected with any place of Worship. One was situated in the townland of Ballymoghgan-More—called Killowen—from which the hill, known as Killa-owen Hill, derives its name. The other was situated in Annaghmore, called "The burial garden." The one at Killowen was said to be one of the oldest Irish burying-grounds, and registered in Rome. About the year 1736, a limestone quarry was opened near it, and continued to be worked until 1770—when the base of the burial-ground was reached, it was found that the limestone extended under it. In working the quarry from that period to 1815, and when overturning the earth at the top of the limestone large quantities of human bones, coffin boards, rings, clasps and nails were found. Many of the bones were in a good state of preservation, and some of the legs, thighs and jaw bones were of more than ordinary size. One arm bone, it is said, exceeded in length and strength any ever seen before by the persons who found them. One of the skulls found fitted over the largest head in the neighbourhood, and some of the jaw bones fitted over the chin of persons visiting the place. The bones were all re-buried in the quarry pit, and the graveyard is now quite obliterated. On the north extremity there was an old spring well which was very deep and on the north-west side was Killa-Owen Hill.

The Annaghmore burial-garden was totally demolished, and is now under tillage.

The remains of an old castle in Annaghmore was dug up about the year 1825, and the site cultivated. It was situated in the holding of the Stewarts. There was no tradition of who its founder was, or who the later inhabitants were. Notwithstanding this there is a story that about the year 1614 it was inhabited by a savage tribe of people called Gibseys or Gibsies who waylaid the neighbouring people, carrying them to the castle and murdering them there, and that it was destroyed by fire by the British Army. No corroboration of this story could be obtained, but it is probable that the castle was besieged and burnt to the ground during the Rebellion. A number of human bones were found when the foundations were being removed. The remains of an old paved road, which, it seems, had been the main leading road from Castledawson, Desertmartin, Magherafelt, and Moneymore to Dublin,

were found in the townlands of Mullaghboy, Dunarnon, and Megargy, and it appears that in making the road from Desertmartin to Moneymore in 1812, a large quantity of human bones were found beneath the surface in that part of Megargy called the Bleach Green Fields. Those fields are at present in possession of Mr. Andrew Ditty, Megargy.

In the townland of Mullaghboy a stone with a rude and indistinct cross was found in a fence. Although it gave the impression of an accidental formation it was preserved and venerated.

In the same townland, on the holding of John Rodfern, stood a stone resembling a cross which had been found about 1805 at a large hawthorn bush where, it was asserted, that Roman Catholic worship had been performed at some remote period.

In Ballyheifer, about the year 1815, a line of an old paired road was found about two feet under the surface of the bog in the holding of Mr. Frank Harbison. The road was paved with large and small stones quite level on top, and the breadth of the road averaged 8 feet. About 210 yards of the road had been raised up. (Information from John Halferty and Robert Flanagan in 1836).

In the holding in Tullylinksay, at present occupied by Henry Stewart, stood the ruins of an old paper mill. Prior to 1836 it had been occupied by a Thomas Wallace, but about the year 1776 it ceased to manufacture paper in consequence of the supply of water being insufficient.

In the same townland stood the ruins of an iron foundry. There was no account of when the foundry ceased to work, but about the year 1746 a large hammer was raised out of the ruins and was drawn by a number of men to the Old Iron Foundry, which stood west of Castledawson, where Mr. Henderson's Bleach Green stood. It also appears that a number of bars of iron were found in the neighbourhood of the Foundry that made good shoes for horses.

In the holding of Patrick Drummond, of Annaghmore, the remains of an ancient burying-ground called the "Burial Garden," were found, from which a large quantity of human bones of every description had been raised. The site was now under tillage.

Cornelius O'Neill, of Aghagaskin (in whose farm John O'Neill is the present occupier), in reclaiming the remains of a bog in his holding in 1827 found beneath the surface a small boat constructed out of a solid piece of oak 8 feet by 3 feet and 2 feet deep. It was greatly decayed, and was afterwards used as a pig's trough. In the same bog some time previous a cask of tea and a crock of old

butter were found. A brass battle axe was also found in the same bog, which was sold to a rag merchant.

In different parts of the district instruments and coins of every description were found. For instance, a battle axe was found in Coolshinney and one in Ballymoghagh. In 1832, in Killyfaddy, a farmer in reclaiming his land found, one foot beneath the surface, a brass spur, bit and buckles, a set of horse's shoes different in shape from modern ones. Two silver coins were found in Megargy about the size of a sixpence. One had a King's head in a circle, full faced and crowned with a Crown fleur-de-lis—with the inscription:—E.D.W.R. Angl. D.N.S.H.Z.B. Reverse—the crop and three pellets in each quarter, and round them CIVITAS, LONDON. The other coin bore the same King's head. Reverse—the crop and three pellets—but the inscription on both sides was defaced. From the inscription it would appear that one of the coins belonged to the reign of Edward the First.

In 1820 a boat formed of a solid piece of oak was found in Coolshinney. It was only six feet long, and when found contained about a bucketful of decayed hazel nuts. Two small oars were also found with it.

There were twenty-six Forts on the Salters' Estate in 1836, these being situated in the townlands of Aghagaskin, Bellagherty, Ballymulderg-More, Ballyneill-Beg and More, Ballygillen-Beg and More, Ballyriff, Ballyrenan-Beg and More, Ballymilligan, Druminnard, Drumennagh, Killyneese, Killyfaddy, Lisnamore, Meghadone, Roshure, Tamnadace, Tannadoeg, Ballynenagh, Mawillian, and Ballindrum. The following interesting particulars relate to a few of them.

There was one in the holding of Mrs. Rodgers in Killyneese, approaching an oblong shape, size 43 yards and 36 yards. It was surrounded by a moat and two parapets at some former period. It has been demolished. The inside parapet had undergone some alterations, but as it stood it averaged 15 feet in height above the bottom of the moat. The area occupied by the Fort is now under tillage. It is said that the north side of the Parapet had been explored about 1796 in search of treasure that had been dreamt of as being there at some previous time, by some of the inhabitants. In exploring the spot they found a cask of old butter, a pot, crock and pot-hooks about five feet beneath the surface. All the articles found were subsequently converted into different uses. The pit out of which the pot had been taken was still visible in 1836. On the north side there was a large stone which was supposed to cover the Treasure. After repeated dreams the stone was tumbled into the Moat, and beneath it were found seven of the largest frogs ever known to have been seen in the North of Ireland.



MR. JOHN HARBISON, Solicitor.



THE LATE MR. JOHN GLOVER, Solicitor.



MR. JAMES BROWN, Solicitor.



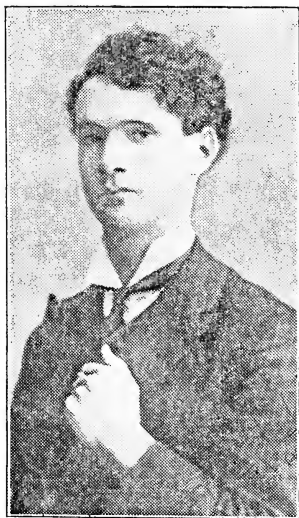
THE LATE MR. ROBERT M'GUCKIN,
Solicitor.



MR. VINCENT M'GUCKIN,
Solicitor.



MR. J. I. DONAGHY, B.A.,
Solicitor, and County Court Registrar.



MR. L. R. HASTINGS, Solicitor.



MR. JAMES JOHNSTON, Solicitor.

In the holding in Aghagaskin, at present occupied by James Bowman, there stood a Fort, which had been surrounded by a moat and two parapets. The Fort was under grazing and stood on an eminence, commanding a delightful view of a large portion of Derry and Antrim. There was a portion of the inside parapet removed at some former period, and beneath its surface were found part of an iron gate, Mechanics Implements, gun locks, etc. The Moat was afterwards dug out, and several pieces of iron bars, corroded by rust, were found. On the north east side an oak-shaped grave was found. It seems it was enclosed at the sides, and ends by flat stones sunk in the ground, and the bottom paved with small stones. It was covered by an oak plank of nearly the same shape and dimensions as the grave, and at the head of the grave stood another oak plank two feet long, two feet broad, and six inches thick, representing a modern headstone. The grave was about five feet long by two feet wide, and ten inches deep. In the interior was found the skeleton, seemingly of a boy—the collar bone, ribs and other bones being reduced to crumbles. The grave was undisturbed, but absorbed in about six feet of water. The planks were taken away and made use of. It was stated that the occupier, prior to Felix Keenan, attempted to demolish the fort, and while in the act of doing so was deprived, to some extent, of his senses, and remained so during the remainder of his life; his Cattle and Chattels, it was alleged, also wasted away. The occupier of the Farm in 1833 (Felix Keenan) used one of the oak planks—found at the grave—in a Manger, and one of his best horses died. He also attempted to demolish the Fort, but the succeeding day two of his Cattle ran wild through the country. They were with great difficulty secured and kept in the stable for several days. Death of his

Cattle took place, and continued unabated up to 1833. (Information from James Semple, Felix Keenan, and others, in 1836.)

In the holding of John Evans, Annaghmore, stood an ancient Haw-bush, locally called the "Gentle Bush." It was said that it had often been seen illuminated at night, and the humming of some invisible agents heard. A Wm. Ekin, who died some time before 1836, cut two branches off the "Bush," and within ten days lost two valuable horses, and he attributed his loss to his action. The site on which the Bush stood was an old Burial-ground, and round the roots of the Bush was occupied by graves of still-born and unbaptised children. About the year 1780 two Querin stones were found at the roots of the tree.

In Tamnadace, in the farm at present occupied by Mr. Wm. Garvin, stood an oval-shaped Fort, 64 feet by 56 feet. The parapets were composed of clay and stones. The Fort in 1836 was under grazing, and stood on an eminence commanding a delightful view of Castledawson. In labouring the Fort about 1820, a number of graves, human bones, and pieces of coffins were discovered beneath the surface. The spot where they were found was, it was said in 1836, to be very gentle and often seen illuminated at night.

In the townland of Mullaghboy, in the holding of Mr. John Walsh, stood an oval-shaped Fort, 70 feet by 50 feet, composed of clay and stones, and enclosed by a moat averaging 15 feet wide. At the west side stood an old spring well; while at the west of the Fort stood an eminence, locally called the "Battle Hill," on which it was said that Cannon were placed to demolish the ancient Castle of Magherafelt.

THE VALUATION OF 1837.

The following were the occupiers of the several premises in Magherafelt in 1837:—

CHARITY STREET (NOW RAINEY ST.)

| | | Rent Yearly. |
|------------------------------|----------|--------------|
| Charity School | Garden | £0 4 0 |
| Same | School | 2 15 0 |
| Robert Sands | Tenement | 8 5 0 |
| Pork Market | | 25 0 0 |
| Ben Donaldson | Tenement | 1 14 0 |
| Martha Kane | " | 0 10 4 |
| Dr. Shannon | " | 0 18 0 |
| Matthew Bowman | " | 1 0 0 |
| Arthur M'Williams | " | 0 13 6 |
| Patrick M'Crystal | " | 1 0 0 |
| James Hughes | " | 1 2 0 |
| John Richey | " | 1 17 0 |
| John Caldwell | " | 3 11 0 |
| Robert Sands | " | 3 2 0 |
| John Walker | " | 4 19 0 |
| Louis Walsh | " | 2 10 0 |
| Patrick M'Crystal | " | 1 14 6 |
| Mrs. M'Davitt | " | 3 7 0 |
| Jane Ash's heirs | " | 2 7 0 |
| Mrs. Thompson | " | 1 15 0 |
| John and Hugh Wilson | " | 4 9 0 |
| John Walker | Meadow | |
| Phelimy Kane and John Walker | Tenement | 2 13 0 |
| William M'Collum | " | 1 2 0 |
| Hugh M'Closkey and M'Menemy | " | 3 18 0 |
| Anthony Magee | " | 2 14 0 |
| James Crooks | " | 1 17 0 |
| Wm. Hastings | " | 1 7 0 |
| John Magraw | " | 1 3 0 |
| Heirs of Peacock | " | 2 10 0 |
| Robert Simpson | " | 0 15 0 |
| Wm. Browne | " | 0 15 0 |
| Samuel Graham's heirs | " | 1 8 6 |
| Patrick M'Kenna | " | 0 19 4 |
| John Morgan | " | 2 9 0 |
| James M'Dowell | " | 1 11 0 |
| John Walsh | " | 2 6 0 |
| Robert Fobes | " | 2 9 0 |
| Andrew Allen | " | 2 9 0 |
| Mrs. Thompson | " | 2 19 0 |
| David Graham | " | 1 18 0 |

MONEYMORE STREET (NOW QUEEN ST.)

| | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------|
| Widow Hagan | Tenement | £3 8 0 |
| John M'Williams | " | 2 4 0 |
| Thomas York | " | 1 10 0 |
| James M'Kee | " | 1 9 0 |
| James Lecky | " | 1 8 8 |
| Wm. Brown | " | 2 12 0 |
| John Constley | " | 2 10 0 |
| Henry Richardson | " | 3 15 0 |
| Wm. Browne | " | 1 14 0 |
| Wm. M'Collum | Grain Market | 35 0 0 |
| James Harbison | Tenement | 2 16 0 |
| Michael Smith | " | 0 18 4 |

| | | |
|------------------|---|-------|
| Charles M'Ginnis | " | 0 8 6 |
| John Risk | " | 2 5 0 |
| Felix Kennedy | " | 1 9 4 |
| John Moran | " | 2 3 0 |
| John Hull | " | 1 4 0 |

THE DIAMOND (SOUTH SIDE.)

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------|---------|
| John Hull | Tenement | £3 0 0 |
| Thomas M'Fall | " | 3 13 0 |
| Wm. M'Collum | " | 2 0 0 |
| Wm. Gaussen | " | 12 17 0 |
| George M'Arthur | " | 3 9 0 |
| Darby M'Afee and Johnston | " | 4 0 0 |
| Henry Waterhouse | " | 2 0 0 |
| Rev. Samuel Twigg | " | 4 2 0 |
| John Johnston | Garden | |

NORTH SIDE.

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------|
| Ulster Bank | " | 3 15 0 |
| John Graham | " | 2 18 0 |
| George Brown | " | 2 7 0 |
| Wm. Hughes | " | 2 12 0 |
| John Duncan | " | 2 8 6 |
| John Johnston | " | 1 16 0 |
| John Graham and G. Brown | Garden | |
| New Linen Market | | |
| Ulster Bank | Office Houses | |
| John Graham | | |

MEETING HOUSE ST. (NORTH SIDE.)

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|
| Wm. Hughes | Garden | |
| Ulster Bank | " | |
| Presbyterian Meeting House | | |
| Thomas M'Fall | Meadow | £2 8 0 |
| John Graham | Garden | |

SOUTH SIDE.

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|--------|
| Charles M'Kenna | Tenement | 3 6 0 |
| Michael Walsh | " | 3 14 0 |
| Patrick M'Atcer | " | 2 15 0 |
| John Graham | " | 4 6 0 |
| John Kielt | " | 1 9 0 |
| Wm. Gaussen | Garden | 0 15 0 |
| Thomas M'Fall | | |
| John Graham | Garden | |
| George Brown | " | |
| Wm. Hughes | " | |
| John Duncan | " | |
| John Graham | " | |
| Thomas M'Fall | " | |
| John Johnston | " | |
| Patrick M'Atcer | " | |
| Wm. Gaussen | Garden | 0 10 0 |

BROAD STREET (EAST SIDE.)

| | | |
|------------------|----------|--------|
| Thomas M'Fall | Tenement | £4 0 0 |
| Wilson Wawhinney | " | 3 2 0 |
| James Shaw | " | 1 0 0 |
| James Hughes | " | 3 17 6 |

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|--------|
| John Duncan | " | 3 19 6 |
| Joshua Adams | " | 2 6 0 |
| John Daly and | " | |
| Geo. Cassidy and Gardon | | 5 11 0 |
| John Walker Tenement | | 4 19 0 |
| Dr. Shannon | " | 2 4 0 |
| Northern Bank | " | 3 9 0 |
| Wm. Ferguson | " | 3 12 0 |
| John Lawrence | " | 3 10 0 |
| John Walsh | " | 1 11 0 |
| Dr. Evans | " | 3 11 0 |

CASTLEDAWSON ST. (NOW CHURCH ST.)
(SOUTH SIDE.)

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Joe and Alex. Devlin Tenement | £4 13 0 |
| Widow Miller | " 3 18 0 |
| Robert Foster | " 1 9 6 |
| Widow Stanley | " 0 18 4 |
| Andrew Allen | " 1 10 0 |
| New School House Garden | |
| Miller and Badger Tenement | 0 15 0 |
| School House | |

NORTH SIDE.

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Linen Hall and Bridewell | |
| John Greer Tenement | 2 5 0 |
| George Cassidy | " 4 0 0 |
| Richard Donnelly | " 4 18 0 |
| John M ^c Williams | " 2 10 0 |
| Wesleyan Chapel and Dwelling House | 1 1 0 |
| Andrew Allen Garden | 0 10 0 |
| John Greer | " 1 1 0 |

UNION ROAD (NORTH SIDE.)

| | |
|---|--|
| Mr. Bryars, New Buildings (now Rose Lodge.) | |
| Female School | |
| Dr. Evans Garden | |

| | | |
|---------------|---|-------|
| John Lawrence | " | 1 0 0 |
| John Walsh | " | |

There were no buildings in the South side of Union Road, except the Office Houses belonging to Mr. Walsh.

CHURCH WELL STREET.

| | | |
|-----------------|---------|--|
| John Thompson | | |
| Bryars Tenement | £0 19 0 | |

HOUSES AT CHARITY BRIDGE.

| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Arthur Donnelly | 1 14 0 |
| James M ^c Ilwee | 1 14 0 |
| Michael Hynds | 1 0 0 |

ROAD FROM RAINEY ST. TO UNION RD.
NOW GARDEN ST. (WEST SIDE.)

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Garden John and Hugh Wilson. | |
| " Jane Ash's heirs. | |
| " John Walker. | |
| " James Hughes. | |
| " Mrs. Thompson. | |
| " John Walker. | |
| " James Hughes. | |
| " John Cochrane. | |

EAST SIDE.

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Garden John Caldwell. | |
| " Mrs. M ^c Davitt. | |
| " Dr. Shannon. | |
| " James Walsh. | |
| " Robert Sands. | |
| Robert Sands Stackyard | |
| John Walker | " |
| same | " |
| Lewis Walsh | " |

OLD MAGHERAFELT.

In 1837 there were no houses in either King Street or Garden Street, and none on the north side of Meeting Street. In the year 1858 the only dwellings in King Street were those of the Rev. John Quinn, P.P., and Mortimer Hynes. In the same year in Garden Street the buildings were offices belonging to Robert Sands, two small houses occupied by William Hughes and Jane Henry, and which were situated where the house at present occupied by Mr. Oliphant now stands, and a school-house which is now occupied by Mr. Joseph Cowan's premises. The remaining houses at present situated in the street were erected by Mr. Hugh McLernon about the year 1880, and these in King Street some time previously. The houses at present situated on the south side of Church Street and occupied by Mrs. M'Mullan, Mrs. Ramsay, Mrs. Houston, Mr. Walter Bell, Mr. Timoney, and Mr. James Johnston, solicitor, were built in 1864 by the Salters' Company—they having demolished the old dwellings—at a cost of £250 each. The Salters' Company also erected the present dispensary in 1858, and handed it over through their agent, Mr. Spotswood to the guardians at the nominal rent of 1s per year.

The old market house was a basaltic building erected on arches in the Diamond in 1810 by the Salters' Company. It was 42 feet long, 21 feet wide, and two stories high. On its northern side was erected a neat cupola, underneath which was the town clock. The upper storey consisted of a spacious room, and was used for the sale of flax, meal, etc., on market days. There was also a room for the weigh-master. The entrance was by five large archways; two each on the northern and southern, and one on the western side, which were closed, except on market and fair days, by large iron gates. A number of the present inhabitants entertain pleasant recollections of the evenings they spent in the old market house, especially in connection with the interesting debates promoted by the Young Men's Christian Association, and on occasions when those who did not see eye to eye with what turned out to be the popular side, they were summarily ejected. The place was also a rendezvous for the labouring class seeking employment, and any employer short of hands had only to repair to the Market House, where he would find ample to select from.

The Market House was demolished in the year 1880, Mr. Hugh McLernon, merchant, Rainey Street, having purchased it from the Salters' Co. in that year.

The clock which adorned the Market House was erected in the year 1820, at a cost of £70,

and was provided by the Parish, as per Resolution of the Vestry, passed on the 13th April, 1819—it being Resolved:—"That a sum "of twopence an acre be laid on for the purpose of putting up a town clock." The clock was kept wound by the Parish for a lengthened period at £2 a year, and in 1830, £3 was paid for winding and cleaning it. In 1878 the clock was sold to Sir Nathaniel Staples, Lissan, and at present can be seen in the farm yard at Lis-sa, having been put into position there by the late Mr. Brice Galway, sen., Magherafelt. Its removal caused genuine expressions of regret. Efforts to have it retained is some conspicuous place in town proved unavailing, notwithstanding a storm of protest in the Press.

The Old Courthouse (now the Town Hall) was built in 1804 partly by the Landlords and partly by the County. It was 74 feet long and 22 feet wide, and consisted (prior to its transformation) of a spacious hall at one end and two jury rooms at the other. The intervening space was fitted up with jury boxes on either sides, which opened into the jury rooms. At one end there were benches for the Chairman of Quarter Sessions, Magistrates, etc., and the deck was situated at the other end, near the door. Many an exciting scene took place within those walls, for in addition to the lively legal episodes which invariably take place, election campaigns were also conducted therein, and in the days prior to the advent of the Ballot Act, the voters assembled there to record their votes, which took two days to complete, and it was no uncommon site to see the streets lined with cavalry to preserve the peace on those occasions. The Sessions, at first, were held half-yearly in June and December, but this was changed afterwards to quarterly courts. Petty Sessions were also held in it every other Wednesday, and a Manorial Court was held monthly, presided over by the agents of the Salters' Co., at which civil actions within the Manor, for sums not exceeding £1 16s 11d. were heard by a jury of twelve, with a right of appeal to the Assizes. The Courthouse was converted into its present shape by Mr. Geo. R. Tipping about the year 1890, at a cost of £253 19s 6d.

The Bridewell, which is now used by the caretaker of the Town Hall, was built in 1839, on the site of the Old Linen Hall, by the County, and cost £515. It turned out to be unhealthy and unfit for the confinement of prisoners. It consisted of two small cells 15 feet by 12 feet, and 8 feet high, one opening off the other, and devoid of furniture. The cells were situated underneath the Courthouse, and the only light was obtained from

the corridor, in the opposite side of which were two small yards—one for males and the other for females. As many as twenty-eight male prisoners had been confined during Quarter Sessions.

It will probably come as a surprise to the old inhabitants to learn that the ground occupied by the old Bridewell, was formerly occupied by the old Linen Hall, which was built in 1820, and was 120 feet long and 70 feet wide. Sheds were erected at its Northern side for keeping the linen dry in wet weather, and in the Hall were rows of wooden stands, upon which the merchants stood during the market. The Hall was found unsuitable, and a new Linen Hall was erected in 1837, at a cost of £294. The Salters' Co. contributed £140, and the Marquis of Londonderry and Sir Robert Bateson £154. It was enclosed by a high wall, with sheds and standings inside for the accommodation of the merchants. The Linen Market was held on the second Thursday in each month. It was then the staple industry of the country, and a source of great prosperity. At that time the Messrs. Walker employed from 1,000 to 1,500 weavers who did the work at their own homes, only a few residing on the premises at Killyfaddy, while 100 men were employed to prepare the yarn for the looms. The markets appeared to have been very extensive, as the linen and yarn sold amounted to about £3,300 annually. Owing to the introduction of machinery in the large towns, the industry in rural districts ceased to a great extent, and the New Hall was converted into dwelling-houses, and portion of it was, until quite recently, occupied by the Technical School. The form of the gateway, and the Salters' Coat of Arms, which they presented at the time the Hall was erected, remain to this day.

The New Courthouse was erected in the year 1869, the contractor being Mr. Geo. R. Tipping, Castledawson, and it cost £5,000. When the Old Courthouse became unsuitable, it is said that the late Mr. J. J. Clark, Lurgantogher, Maghera (father of Col. Clark, D.L., Chairman of the Co. Council), in order to induce the Grand Jury to build it in Maghera, offered a free site in that town, but the people of Magherafelt brought influence to bear on the Salters' Co., and they not only gave a free site, but also a donation of £1,000 towards its erection. The Old Courthouse then became their property, and a sale of their estate they transferred it to the Town Hall Trustees. The court-keepers of the Old Courthouse were Sergeant Armstrong, John Adams and T. C. Monteith, auctioneer and valuer, who also had charge of the New Courthouse till his death. His widow succeeded him, and is the present court-keeper. It may be interesting to state that provision was made in the New Courthouse for the keeping of prisoners undergoing short

sentences (instead of incurring the expense of sending them to Derry.) The cells were used for that purpose for some time, and the caretaker was allowed remuneration for looking after the male and female prisoners. This continued till about 36 years ago, when the cells were condemned as insanitary. From that date all prisoners have been sent to Derry.

The Bridge, known as Charity Bridge, according to the evidence of the late Rev. Dr. Wilson, before the Select Committee of the House of Commons, on the Irish Society and London Companies Estates, was built for the improvement of the town by the inhabitants, and not, as generally supposed, by the Salters' Company.

The premises in Broad Street occupied in 1837 by the Ulster Bank, are now the Post Office. Mr. Samuel H. Porter's premises were formerly occupied by Thomas M'Fall, and later by Archie M'Fall, who was well known throughout the district. He carried on the business of an hotel-keeper, and the buildings are known as "Hotel Buildings." From a description contained in the Terrier (Rental) for 1845, it would appear that it was a respectable and comfortable inn and well conducted. It was fitted up with much internal convenience, an additional story added, a large room built, and new stables erected—the whole costing £1,000. The Hotel contained 16 beds.

The house at present occupied by Dr. Kerlin was, in 1837, tenanted by Wilson Mawhinney; while James Shaw resided in a house on which Dr. Hunter's premises stand, and the entrance to the rare is familiarly known as "Shaws' Entry" to this day, the office-houses having been dwelling-houses.

Messrs. Glover and M'Guckin's solicitors' office formerly belonged to James Hughes, and in 1859 were purchased by the late Mr. John Glover, solicitor, from Mrs. Hughes, for £300. They were described as a dilapidated and ruinous tenement at the yearly rent of £10. They were almost rebuilt by Mr. Glover at a cost of £500.

John Duncan occupied the business premises now belonging to Mr. John Shiels, and Joshua Adams, watchmaker, was a former inhabitant of those now in possession of Mr. Brice Galway.

John Daley was the tenant of Mr. P. J. O'Kane's present premises. It was formerly the Post Office, and the position of the "Letter Box" is still traceable.

Mr. John Walsh's Hotel at the 1837 period was raised an extra story, and the premises substantially repaired.

Wm. Ferguson's premises occupied the ground now covered by Mr. John Harbison's dwelling-house and offices. They were formerly the Manor office and dwelling-house, the latter evidently being intended for the principal clerk in the office. They and the Manor House (now the Convent) were erected at a cost of £4000, about the year 1860.

The Northern Bank established their branch here in the year 1835. Prior to that they had an agent. The managers, in 1837, were Messrs. Gausson and Duncan. The present manager is Mr. W. Adamson.

The Belfast Bank also established a branch in the same year in Rainey Street. The managers were Messrs. Walker, and a representative of that family continued to hold the office till four years ago, when the present manager, Mr. M. B. Redmond, was appointed. Mr. John Walker, on his retiring, was made the recipient of a handsome presentation from the townspeople and others. Mr. Redmond, on his taking up Mr. Walker's mantle, also received public recognition in the shape of a gold watch and chain and Mrs. Redmond a piece of plate.

In 1836 Mr. Fagan, who collected the information connected with the Parish, reported that the four principal residences about Magherafelt were Farm Hill, Glenbrook, Millbrook, and Rose Lodge.

Farm Hill, now the residence of Mrs. Stewart, and birth-place of Dr. Stewart, Portlengone, was then the residence of Captain Blathwayt, situated in Killyneese, about half-way between Magherafelt and Castledawson. The house was in the cottage style, but commodious. The situation was exquisitely beautiful, commanding one of the finest and most extensive views.

Millbrook, now the residence of Mr. R. M'Guckin, solicitor, was then in the occupation of Mr. Andrew Spotswood, agent for the Salters' Company. The situation was almost hidden from view by the Plantation. The house was then two storied and modern. There was a good lawn and an excellent garden attached. Since it became the property of Mr. M'Guckin the house has been rebuilt and is lighted throughout by electricity.

Rose Lodge, owned by Mr. Wm. Hastings, Clerk of Union and District Council, formerly belonged to Mr. Bryans, and during his tenancy he approached the Salters' Co. for a grant of a long lease, as he intended to start a linen mill, but the Company, it seems, declined to grant him a lease sufficiently long, consequently Mr. Bryans' project had reluctantly to be abandoned.

Glenbrook, the residence of the Cassidi family, was built about the year 1830, in the

Elizabethan or Tudor style of architecture. It is charmingly situated in Polepatrick, and formed a very pretty object in the landscape.

The markets and fairs of Magherafelt date back to the year 1631. In that year a licence was granted to Ralph Whistler, agent or lessee of the Salters' Company, to hold a market on every Thursday at the town of Magherafelt, and two fairs, one on the 14th August, and one on the 18th October each year, and continue for two days. The markets have continued weekly, and the fairs evidently became so popular that subsequently it was found necessary to hold them more frequently.

The market in Charity Street was built about the year 1836 at a cost of £431. The Salters' Company gave a donation of £25 towards the cost, in addition to presenting a copy of their coat of arms, which was affixed over the entrance gateway. The Marquis of Londonderry and Sir Robert Bateson (who were the lessees of the estate at that period) contributed £406. The market, when provided, was considered sufficient for the accommodation required without encroachment upon the streets. Those hopes, however, were not fully realised, as the market became so popular that within a comparatively short space of time it was found quite unable to cope with the demands made upon it. At the present time the markets for grass-seed, hay, straw, pork, young pigs, flax, etc., are held on the streets, and a short time ago the magistrates in Petty Sessions were called upon to define the position the carts with young pigs should occupy in Meeting Street.

The corn market, situated in Moneymore Street, was built by the landlords in 1818, and the grain market situated in same place was built in 1830. At the centre of the east side there was a crane, and a bell rang as the signal for the commencement of the market. These are now occupied by the butter and egg markets.

Before the repeal of the Corn Laws, about 60 years ago, two of the principal crops grown in this district, were wheat and oats, and the quantities offered for sale being very large, the markets would extend generally from Church Street to the foot of Rainey Street, and large consignments would be carted to Belfast in addition to what was sent by lighters from Ballyronan. It was also the custom for a number of persons to purchase large quantities of corn for the purpose of having it ground into oatmeal (Indian meal not being on the market at that time), and storing it in what was then known as 'arks.' In 1837 the markets were held by Mr. Wm. M'Collum at a certain rent. Afterwards Mr. Horace T. Gausson (now of Portstewart) rented them. Subsequently they were held by

lessees. Messrs. Samuel Porter, James Harbison, and Archie McFall (all of whom are deceased), and at the sale of the estate they were transferred by the Salters' Company to the Market Trustees and under their management they have become most successful, and are now looked upon as very important. The other markets in the district in 1851 were Castledawson (held every Saturday), Drapers-town (every Wednesday), Maghera (every Tuesday), and Moneymore (every Monday). The latter was a corn market.

As previously stated, the holding of fairs in Magherafelt was, by the licence granted in 1631, restricted to two annually, viz., on 14th August and 18th October. How long this arrangement continued is not quite certain, but according to Thom's Directory for the year 1854, the fairs were held on 25th May, 25th August, and 29th October each year. The fair then became so successful that it was found necessary to hold it on the last Thursdays in each month. They were held on the streets up to the year 1840, but this system was found so very inconvenient by the general public that representation was made to the lessees (the Bateson family), who provided the present Fair Hill which contains about four English acres. Buyers attended from all the principal towns, and it was looked upon as a really good fair. The fair hill was afterwards improved by the fair hill trustees, but notwithstanding every inducement by the trustees and people of the town, it began to decline, and has now become extinct, a fate which has overtaken some of the neighbouring villages. For instance, Castledawson, which in 1854, boasted of its four annual fairs, held on the 1st January, Wednesday after Easter, 1st June, and 1st August, and according to Thom's Directory for the year 1870, it had so improved that the fairs were held on the last Saturday in each month. Desartmartin had its quintette, viz., 4th February, 8th May, 7th June, 1st October, and 8th November; Curran its bi-annual fair on 23rd June and 22nd November; and Swateragh, which had its quintette, viz., 3rd March, 17th May, 17th July, and 3rd December. It also seems that tolls were paid by those who brought cattle and goats to Magherafelt fair. This custom has not been in existence for a lengthened period.

As already stated, the Salters' Company from the Plantation down to 1853, had not the estate for any lengthened periods in their actual occupation. They adopted a system of leasing to others, and the last lease (which was for 99 years) was granted to the Marquis of Londonderry and Sir Robert Bateson, and expired on the 12th May, 1853, the rental being £500 annually. According to a return made by Mr. Spotswood (agent to the lessees) on the 9th May, 1845, the total rental was £12,670 16s 4d. At that period

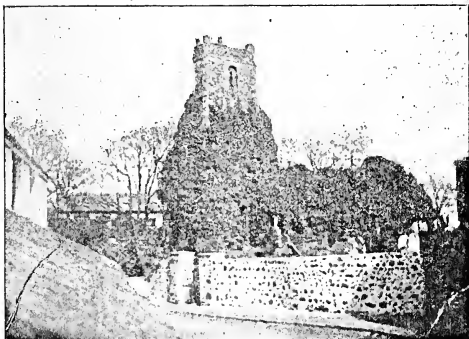
there were 1,389 tenants compared with 191 in 1752. Of those 1,389 tenancies 192 were in the town of Magherafelt, 124 holding under lease, and 68 annual tenancies, and the rent of the town was returned at £337 13s 4d, being looked upon merely as a ground rent. That amount included £25 for the pig market and £35 for the grain market. The average length of the estate was eight miles the width four miles, and it had a frontage of four miles along Lough Neagh. The estate covered an area of 36 square miles. It seems the lessees were looked upon as very considerate landlords, for according to the evidence given by the Rev. Professor Dickey before the Morley Commission on the London Companies' estates in 1890, the Bateson family granted long building leases to the tenants, and at the end of that time the town of Magherafelt had been built to a considerable extent by the tenants themselves, the valuation of the town then being £2,900. In 1855, when the lease to the Bateson family expired, the Salters' Company had a survey of the town made by Mr. Stewart Graham, the then county surveyor, and the rent was increased to £721 19s 7d. From that date till the year 1865 there seems to have been a gradual increase, as in the latter year the rent from the town holdings yielded £935 19s 1d. The reason given by the Company for the increase (in reply to a memorial from the tenants of the town, adopted at a public meeting held on the 19th April, 1867), was that during the ten years from 1855 to 1865 they had expended £8,000 in the erection of new buildings and in the purchase of tenants' interests, and, in addition, £1,500 had been spent by them in re-building the Rainey School. They also stated that the gross receipts of the rental from 1853 to 1865 was £8,535 8s 0d, and during that period the sum expended by them in the town amounted to £16,500, independent of a further sum of £4,000 in the erection of a manor house and agent's office. It was asserted by the tenants of the town that had the Salters' Company encouraged them by granting them long leases the town would not, as at present, be devoid of factories, and would have been more important, and it was pointed out by the Rev. Professor Dickey in his evidence already referred to that the Salters' Company refused to grant a long lease to Thomas Bryan (who lived in Ross Lodge) for the purpose of enabling him to establish manufactures, and that Mr. Montgomery, who had a coach factory in Union Road, and who paid from £14 to £15 a week in wages about the year 1880, had to remove to Omagh on the same grounds. And the late Mr. John Glover, solicitor (of the firm of Messrs. Glover and McGuckin), in a letter dated 30th March, 1886, forwarding a prospectus of a Company (Knockloughrim Flax and Tow Spinning Co., Ltd.), and addressed to Mr. Andrew Spotswood, agent of the Salters'

Company, stated that it was at first contemplated to establish the company for weaving and spinning lirens in Magherafelt with a capital of £50,000 to £100,000, but the feeling of insecurity was such that every person shrunk from it when it was first mentioned. It is the general opinion that had the company encouraged industries by granting leases for reasonable periods, Magherafelt would, in all probability be a more thriving centre than it is at present. Notwithstanding that great drawback it has held its own in the race for "importance" in the county. Of course had the population warranted the application of the Towns Improvement Act, we would now be enjoying the benefits which it is asserted follow in the train of that measure. An effort was made to have the town brought under this Act by the late Mr. Samuel Porter, J.P., the late Mr. John Donaghy, and the late Mr. Alex. Johnston about the year 1889. A meeting was held in the new courthouse, but the opposition was so vigorous that the project had to be abandoned. The population did not warrant it, but the scheme put forward by the promoters was to include the workhouse and the townparks. The promoters evidently wished the inhabitants to take advantage of the offer that had been made by the Salters' Company of £2,000 towards the bringing in of a proper water supply, and the improvement of the drainage of the town, and also the establishing of the markets as public markets. This sum, although generous looking, was considered very inadequate, as it was estimated that to carry out the idea it would take £8,000, and that was probably one of the reasons why it was declined. At a later period Mr. Adamson, manager of the Northern Bank, had a survey made of the cost of bringing in a water supply, and submitted it to the District Council with an offer of a substantial grant towards carrying it out, but that also was declined, as the cost to the ratepayers would have been very heavy. How the town has decreased in population through emigration and migration may be gathered from the following:—According to the census of 1831, the population numbered 1,436, and the religious denomination was 485 Irish Church, 687 Roman Catholics, 310 Presbyterians, and 54 others. In 1841 it had increased to 1560, which was the highest number reached. There were 242 houses inhabited by 729 males and 831 females, and 11 houses were uninhabited. In 1851 it was 1,390; in 1861, 1,295; in 1871, 1,401; in 1881, 1,514; in 1891, 1,421; in 1901, 1,328; and in 1911, 1,233 (595 males and 638 females residing in 267 houses. The fall in 1911 is partly accounted for by the fact that a good number of the inhabitants went down to Portstewart on the eve of the census for the purpose of swelling the population there in the endeavour to have it placed under the Towns' Improvement Act. As an instance of the

increase of prosperity since the sale of the estate it may be mentioned that, according to a letter forwarded by the late Mr. John Glover to the Salters' Company in 1866, there were in that year 27 grocers, 13 publicans, 7 woollen drapers, and 4 retailers of bacon in Magherafelt, whereas now there are 23 grocers, 31 publicans, 15 drapers, 4 clothiers, and 1 retailer of bacon, and the population is 1,233, as compared with 1,295 in 1861.

One often hears expressions of sorrow and disappointment at the fact that no portion of South Derry—no matter how small—was allowed to remain in its original state, as found by the "Planters." It would be greatly prized and immensely valued. Those disappointments were evidently felt at a pretty early stage by the deputations from the several companies who visited the estates from time to time. As already stated, the Salters' Company's portion was practically a huge forest, and in 1845 they explained the cause of the scarcity of trees to be due to (1) the destruction which was made of the woods to prevent their being a shelter to the native Irish; (2) lavish waste of fuel; (3) the exportation of staves, which was once the staple industry of Ireland; and (4) the demand for charcoal for smelting lead and iron. And in the "Concise View" issued by the Irish Society, it is stated that in 1685 iron works were erected on the estates of the different companies—there were works at Castledawson and Ballinderry—the ovens being kindled with charcoal, and the furnaces, when once kindled, were kept burning from one year's end to the other, and blown day and night by bellows worked by water.

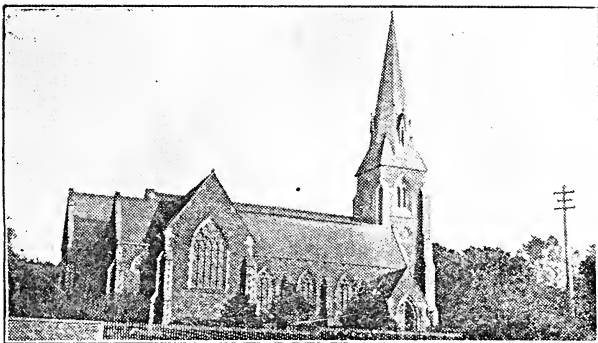
From whatever cause (the enlightenment of the twentieth century, or the slight increase in the population) the fact is borne in upon us that the preservation of the peace of the town and district is to-day a matter of far greater magnitude than it formerly was. The Royal Irish Constabulary was formed about the year 1836, following on the "man in blue," who was brought into existence in England in 1829 by Sir Robert Peel, which accounts for the fact that to this day the members are often called "Peelers." The prefix "Royal" was added in 1867 in recognition of the services rendered by them at the Fenian rising, and they are admitted to be the finest body of police in the world. In 1836 the force in Magherafelt consisted of three members, a like number being stationed in Castledawson. The house which then served as a barrack is now occupied by Mr. Alex. M'Ivor, Church Street—it was then in possession of Mr. George Cassidy. The force now consists of a District-Inspector, Head-Constable, two Sergeants, and seven Constables. Besides being Peace Officers they now perform the duties which used to fall to



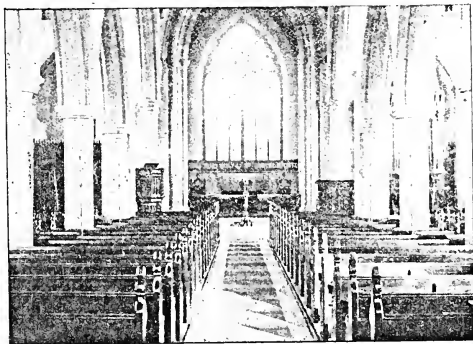
THE OLD CHURCH, MAGHERAFELT.



COL. F. P. CASSIDI, J.P., Glenbrook.



ST. SWITHIN'S CHURCH.



INTERIOR OF ST. SWITHIN'S CHURCH.

the Revenue Police. Before their establishment the Select Vestry had the oversight of the good behaviour of the inhabitants, and each year they appointed Petty Constables who, in all probability, assisted the military in preserving order, for Magherafelt had for many years the honour of having a detachment of Cavalry and Infantry stationed therein. The persons so appointed evidently performed their duties gratuitously until 1742. In that year, whether the fulfilment of those duties had become more exacting, or that voluntary services were more difficult to obtain, the vestry ordered that £1 be granted as salary. This sum was increased to £1 10s, and in 1747 a further increase to £2 was made, at which princely sum it would appear to have remained till 1760, after which date there does not appear any further entry of Constables having been appointed. The following is a list of those appointed:—1717, Wm. Maghlin, petty constable; 1718, John Mitchell; 1719, Wm. McKelvey; 1731, James Cleeland and James Duncan, jun., for town and parish; 1732, John Girvan and James Gilmore; 1733, Richard Ditty and Stewart Morton; 1738, Wm. Clownish, of Shanemullagh, for parish; 1739, John Fearson, Ballynocker; 1740, Wm. Brown, Tullylinksay; 1741, Matthew McKee, Ballynocker; 1742-3-4, James Cox, Magherafelt; 1745 to 1756, Alex. Brown, Magherafelt; 1757, Robert Lees, Killyneec, and James Miller, Magherafelt; 1758, Benjamin Redfern, for country, and John M'Murdy for town; 1759, Thomas Lee, Drumrainey, for country, and Wm. Brown for town; 1760, Hugh Brown, Tullylinksay, for country, and Wm. Kilpatrick for town. The military evidently took their departure about the time the constabulary force was formed, for in 1836 Mr. Fagan remarks:—"There are not now any military stationed here."

The principal means of travelling to Belfast and Dublin was by coach, in the early portion of the 19th century.

In 1836 a coach from Cookstown to Belfast passed through Magherafelt every morning (Sunday excepted) at 6-30, arriving in Belfast at 11 a.m. It left Belfast at 3 o'clock same day and arrived in Magherafelt at 8 o'clock, p.m. Outside fare cost 4s 6d, and inside 6s 6d. There were eleven regular carmen who plied between Magherafelt and Belfast, and generally returned on the fourth day after departure. There was also one chaise and eight post horses for hire in the town. The charge for a horse and car was 8d per Irish mile per head, and a shilling per mile per head for the chaise. It seems it was the custom of some of the business people in those days to walk to Belfast and return same day—a feat we, in the twentieth century, would not think of embarking upon. It is told of the

father of the present Robert McKenna, King Street, that he went to Belfast, and when he reached Toome on his return journey he played a challenge handball match and won. Truly they were stalwarts in those days.

The Railway to Cookstown from Randalls-town was made in 1857, and from that year it became the principal means of travelling, although for a considerable time the "Irish Jaunting Car" was a formidable rival, but was eventually forced to give way. Naturally there was great interest manifested in the "Carriages running without horses," and the people of the town and country flocked to witness the first train pass up. To say that astonishment was expressed in every face is but to put the fact very mildly. It is said that when first made there was a "halt" at Killyboggan to accommodate the people round about that district going and coming from Cookstown and Magherafelt markets and fairs, but it ceased to exist after some time.

The lighting of the town of Magherafelt, prior to 1871, was not at all satisfactory. Mr. H. E. Cartwright, J.P., agent to the Salters' Co., took the matter in hand, and a meeting was held in 1870, when it was decided to have gas introduced. An influential working committee was appointed, and the people of the town gave every encouragement, and the Salters' Company, assisted. A site was obtained from Dr. J. S. Vesey, father of the late Dr. A. B. Vesey, J.P. The works having been completed, the residents celebrated the event by illuminating their windows. Tar barrels were burned and congratulatory speeches made. The public lamps were provided by subscription—the townspeople generously doing their part, and the Salters' Company gave a donation of £300. Of course an annual contribution had to be collected to enable the Gas Company to have the town properly lighted, but thanks to the generosity of the Market Trustees, this burden has been removed to their shoulders. Who the directors were who first took the matter of the Gasworks in hands is not locally known, but in 1876 the following occupied that position—viz., Messrs. H. E. Cartwright, J.P. (chairman); Archibald McFall, James Sands, Thomas Wilson, Samuel Derby, John Graham, sen.; John Donaghy, and Thomas S. Taylor; the auditors were Messrs. Robert Hanna and James Higginbotham; the treasurer was T. S. Taylor; the hon. secretary, Archibald McFall, and the solicitor, John Glover, all of whom have gone over to the great majority. From the report submitted to the Directors on 24th July, 1877, it appeared that the working of the Company had proceeded satisfactorily, and that the manager, Mr. Lecky, had exerted himself in keeping all connected with the Gas supply in good order, and by his

efficient management had increased the amount obtained by the sale of residual products to £55 6s 5d. And a pleasing feature of the report was that the balance to the credit of the account enabled them to recommend a dividend of five per cent., and the carrying forward of a substantial balance. The working of the Company on the whole proved satisfactory. However one of the first real drawbacks was the action of the Guardians in the year 1904 in substituting Acetylene Gas for Coal Gas. At that period the Board had been a substantial consumer, having paid £166 2s during the two years ended March, 1904. Prior to deciding on the change, a deputation from the Gas Co., consisting of the late Mr. Samuel Porter, J.P., and Mr. John Harbison, solicitor, appeared and endeavoured to induce the Guardians to alter their decision, but were not successful. This evidently did not tend to encourage the Directors to "doughty" deeds, and in 1906 the Company sold the works, plant, etc., to Messrs. Anderson Bros., London, in whose hands the concern still is, and seven years ago they startled the United Kingdom by appointing a lady manager, which turned out to be the first appointment of the kind in the world. The experiment was on the whole successful, and amongst other notable things, Magherafelt can, in this respect, boast of having set an example for the universe.

In the year 1836, it is reported that a Show of Cattle and Crops was held annually in Magherafelt. It continued for some years, but eventually became extinct. A number of years ago an effort was made to revive the show, principally through the efforts of the late Mr. Samuel Porter, J.P., who was always one of the foremost in inaugurating any project which was for the benefit of the town—and Mr. Louis Smyth; but their praiseworthy efforts proved unsuccessful. In its stead, however, the annual ploughing match, which had ceased to exist after the sale of the Estate, was reinstated, and thanks to the efforts of the Committee, and Mr. James Walsh, hon. secretary, it has been most successful. In 1875 people of the district around Desertmartin and Kileronaghau inaugurated a flower, fruit and vegetable show, called the Desertmartin and Kileronaghau Cottage Gardening Society. It was generally held convenient to the Rectory, and during the month of August. It continued in existence for about ten years. Now that an annual general holiday has been established, it might interest those who succeeded in establishing the fixture, to learn that they are only following in the footsteps of the merchants so far back as 1877, who gave their employees their annual holiday, which took place generally on the third Friday in June.

The Cassidi Family is a very old Irish one, which the following, taken from Burke's Landed Gentry will show:—

Lineage.—The very ancient Celtic family of Ua Caiside or O' Cassidy has been for ages seated in the Co. Fermanagh, where the village of Ballycassidy, adjacent to Enniskillen, yet locally preserves the name. Their territory was called Cuil-na-n-Oirear (i.e. the corner or angle of harbours), situated on the eastern shore of the Upper Loch Erne, immediately opposite some beautiful islets, whose indentations form the miniature haven that gave the place its title. It is now called 'The Barony of Coole.' The Ua Caiside were hereditary ollaves in medicine (or state physicians) of the Maguires, the olden monarchs of Fermanagh; and they held their district ex-officio, according to the laws of tanistry. Notices of the clan abound in the annals of the Four Masters. In 1143 died Gilla Moduda O' Cassidy, abbot of Ardrebreen. He was author of a list of Kings of Ireland from the introduction of Christianity to A.D. 1022. In 1322 Fincen O' Cassidy, of Coole, Chief Physician of Fermanagh, died. He was succeeded by Gilla-na-n-Angel O' Caiside, who died 1335. Teige, son of Joseph O' Caiside, of Coole, ollav of Fermanagh, died 1450. Five years after we find the obit. of Dermot ruadh, son of Niel ruadh, of Coole. In 1490 the O' Cassidy, of Coole, died. In 1504 we have the death of Pierce MacThomas O' Cassidy, of Coole, and of him the Four Masters tell us that he was 'Ollav to Maguire in physic. A man truly learned in literature and medical science; and kept an 'open house for hospitality.' In 1520 Felim O' Cassidy, son of Teige, ollav to the race of Philip Maguire, died. In 1541 died Roderick Cassidy, Archdeacon of Clogher, eminently versed (as Sir James Ware informs us) in the historical records of his country. Besides having written part of the Register of Clogher, he also compiled the latter part of 'The Annals of Ulster.' Among inquisitions in the Exchequer is one taken at Ballycassidy, Co. Fermanagh, 21st September, 1630, respecting 'Cormack O'Cashedy.' At this time the family had branched out widely in the Counties of Fermanagh, Louth and Monaghan, and to one of these Scions we

refer:—Henry O' Cassidy, Esq., M.D., who had followed his ancestral pursuits in medicine, was of Greatwood, Mullaghbawn and Duunlirk, Co. Louth, and of various estates in Co. Monaghan. He was born in 1630. We find 10th April, 1690, that King James the Second issued a Commission to him in conjunction with the High Sheriffs of the Co. Monaghan pro tem, and five others (mostly military persons), to make an appointment upon their County for £1052 4s 0q for three months. Dr. O' Cassidy had two sons and a daughter. Fergus was his heir. Fergus had two sons. Patrick, his heir, died on 6th July, 1753, and by his will desired to 'be buried in my tombe at Carrick M'Ross.' The youngest son, Francis, born 1747, was of Cashel, Co. Tipperary, and he married Sarah Magee, first cousin of Archbishop Magee, of Dublin. He died in 1802. His eldest son was Rev. Mark Cassidy, A.M., born 1st August, 1777, Scholar of Trinity College, Dublin, 1797. He married in 1808, and had eight sons and four daughters. Francis Peter, his second son, succeeded him. The Rev. Mark Cassidy was Chancellor of Kilmorora and Incumbent of Newtownards, and died 10th December, 1839. ARMS.—Per chevron Arg. and gu. two lions rampant in chief, and a boar passant in base counterchanged. CREST.—A spear broken into three pieces: two in Saltire and the head in pale ppr. banded gu. (Another crest was a caduceus, perhaps referring to mercury and the ancient healing arts of the family.) MOTTO.—Frangas non flectes. The son of Rev. Mark Cassidy, referred to, was Colonel Francis Peter Cassidy, of Glenbrook, and father of Dr. F. P. Cassidy, of Derby, and Miss Cassidy, Glenbrook. He was Colonel of the 34th Regiment, and Musketry Instructor. He served with his regiment during the Indian Mutiny, was frequently mentioned in despatches, and was wounded at Cawnpore on 26th November, 1857. He was a magistrate for the County, and for many years ex-officio member of the Magherafelt Board of Guardians. At the time of the Disestablishment of the Church of Ireland he was appointed one of the Parochial nominators of the congregation and a member of the Select Vestry of St. Swithin's Church.

THE OLD PARISH CHURCH.

Reliable information as to the exact year in which this Church, now in ruins, was first erected, is not at present available. That it was in existence in the year 1425 is beyond doubt, for the late Bishop Reeves mentions that Malachy O'Mulchallyn had the ecclesiastical oversight of the Parish, that he died in 1425, and was succeeded by Neal O'Corre. How long, prior to that year, neither Reeves nor Ware state, but at that period it was looked upon as the Ancient Church of Magherafelt. As mentioned previously, there is a legend that St. Patrick, when passing through the district, worshipped in the Church, and founded the well, which is situated opposite the gate. Readers of Irish History are aware that the periods under review were of a very turbulent and troublesome character, and although the district around Magherafelt was principally covered with forests, which proved a great boon to the Clansmen of Hugh O'Neill and others when heavily pressed, buildings, such as churches, naturally came in for particular attention from the invaders, as likely to be used as a hiding-place by the pursued. It is, therefore, not surprising to learn that this Church passed through many vicissitudes. Unfortunately the records known to be extant in connection with the Church, only date from 1717, and the explanation given (quite a natural one) is that the Church had been destroyed on many an occasion. Reeves mentions that it was in ruins in 1616. It was, however, built some years afterwards: for in Lewis' Topographical Dictionary, published in 1837, it is related that the Old Church in Magherafelt was burned down during the Rebellion of 1641, and the town plundered by the insurgents. Many of the inhabitants were murdered and others put to ransom. It was then rebuilt in 1664, and it seems that in 1688 the town was again plundered, the inhabitants fleeing to the mountains, finding shelter in Derry, forming part of the garrison during the memorable Siege. On that occasion the Church escaped destruction, as the enemy used it as a barrack. In 1699 Mr. Gabriel Whistler (the Salters' Company's lessee, of whom James M'Neill Whistler, the famous painter, was a descendant) covenanted to repair the Church and enclose the Churchyard with walls. It must have again been damaged, as it is stated in the "Concise View," published by the Irish Society, that in the year 1717, timber was sent over from London to repair the roof of the Church, and it is probable that prior to that date the Records must have been destroyed, as the minutes date from that year.

The Vestries, which were brought into existence, had very onerous and important duties. They represented the whole Parish, and were responsible for the making and upkeep of the roads, the good behaviour of the inhabitants, the keeping in good condition of all public buildings, and the looking after of the health of the people. In fact they discharged the duties now carried out by the County and District Council Authorities and Board of Guardians. They had the power to raise money for those purposes, and the general way adopted was by assessing a certain poundage rate per acre, and in case any person refused to pay the Churchwardens (who were charged with the duty of having it collected) were "empowered "to distrain for ye Cesses if occasion "required," and in addition, they had also power to impose certain additional penalties. Their word was law, which brooked no interference. The Vestry met once a year (generally during Easter week) and oftener as occasion required, or by request of the government of the day. The Rector for the time being was the Chairman, and those who met as the Vestry represented all classes and creeds. There does not seem to be on record in what manner the Vestry was elected—if elected at all—same as those of the present day. The general idea is that any person who felt inclined could attend. How many did so is not recorded—the minutes only contain the signatures of a number of persons present, from a dozen to twenty-four.

There was only one burying-ground, and all were interred therein. Some people think that such a state of things should have continued, that we probably would have been a happy family, and the penalty we now have to pay for our departure from the old order of things would not have been exacted. The Churchwardens, as now, were responsible for the good order of the Church for Service, and providing of all necessary equipment. The Churchwardens for the year, 1717, were Major Thomas Ash and Captain William Watson, and the Synodsmen were James Garvin, jun., and Thomas Cornwall. A cess of £13 was assessed for providing necessary articles for the Church in 1717, and on the 14th April, 1718, an account of how that amount was expended was submitted as follows:—

BY CAPTAIN WATSON.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|----|---|
| For a Pulpit Cushion and Carpet | £6 | 18 | 4 |
|---------------------------------|----|----|---|

THE PARTICULARS.

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|----|----|---|
| For a yard and half of Velvet | £2 | 0 | 0 |
| For Persian to line the Cushion | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| For 3 yards of Cloth for ye Carpet | | | |
| for ye Communion Table | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| For Galloon and Tessels | 0 | 10 | 8 |
| For making Cushion and Carpet | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| For Carriage to Maghera | 0 | 5 | i |
| And from thence to Dawson's Bridge | 0 | i | i |

| | | | |
|--|----|----|---|
| | £6 | 18 | 4 |
|--|----|----|---|

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|----|---|
| For 12 yards Holland for a Sur- | | | |
| plice, at 3s 6d per yard | £2 | 2 | 0 |
| For making and fetching it | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| For altering the Pulpit | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| For a Pair of Hinges for ye Chancel | | | |
| Rails | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| For mending the lock on ye Church | | | |
| Gate | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| To Mr. Birkby for Sacrament Wine | 0 | 2 | 8 |
| For mending a Chest in ye Church | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| For 2 Common Prayer Books | 0 | i6 | 0 |
| For Churchwarden's Fees and | | | |
| Expenses at ye Visitation | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| | £11 | 5 | 7 |

BY MAJOR ASH.—Viz.,

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| To Wm. Anderson, for 6 bottles of | | | |
| Wine at 2 Sacraments | £0 | 7 | 6 |
| For Bread for ye Sacrament | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| To James Hayes for Glazing | i | 9 | 5 |
| To Thos. Cornwall for Pointing, etc. | 0 | 6 | i0 |
| To Con O'Neill for Carpenters Work | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| To Mr. Palmer for a 1000 of Shingles | i | i0 | 0 |
| For 1200 of Nails | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| For 4 Bottles of Wine for ye | | | |
| Sacrament | 0 | 4 | 8 |
| For Bread | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| For Churchwardens Fees and | | | |
| Expenses | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| To the Sexton—a year's Salary, | | | |
| ending the 14 April, 1818 | i | 0 | 0 |

| | | | |
|--|----|----|----|
| | £5 | 12 | 10 |
|--|----|----|----|

| | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|
| By Major Ash | £5 | i2 | 10 |
| „ Capt. Watson | ii | 5 | 7 |

| | | | |
|------|----|----|---|
| | 16 | 18 | 5 |
| Less | i3 | 00 | 0 |

| | | | |
|-----------|----|----|---|
| Remaining | 03 | i8 | 5 |
|-----------|----|----|---|

And it was resolved that “the amount expended over and above the cess for the year, 1717, was to be paid out of ye cess for year ending 1718.

There is a memorandum in the year, 1717, that the Rev. Thomas Ashenden, then rector of Loughgall, and who had been rector of Magherafelt in the year, 1685, had bestowed the Silver Chalice and Patin to the Church. The Patin is still in use in St. Swithin's Church. In 1718 the sexton's salary was increased to £2, and in 1719 there was a further addition to it of ten

shillings, at which it remained till 1798, when there was a further increase to £3 10s. The Sexton in 1757 was John Devlin, and the last Sexton of the Church was a David Devlin, a descendant of John Devlin. From this it would seem that the office had been retained by the family. In the year 1719 the Rev. T. Warburton was authorised to lay out what poor money he had in his hands towards buying a Pall and Mort Cloth, which was to be hired out for the benefit of the poor.

The Pall or Mort Cloth must have been well cared for, as it evidently did duty for almost 100 years. In 1809 a resolution was passed ordering one of good quality to be purchased for use of the Parish, and to be kept by the Acting Churchwardens, with directions that it was not to be sent out of the Parish. Every parishioner was to pay fivepence each time they required it, the proceeds to be devoted to the burying of the dead of those not able to do the like.

The entries in the Old Vestry Book are generally of a similar nature, such as the amounts assessed for Sexton's salary, providing wine, etc., for Holy Communion, expenses of Churchwardens attending visitation, and for the cleaning and upkeep of the Church. These were added to as occasion required. The following are some examples:

1721. 40s. ordered to be levied for the maintenance of a child left upon the Parish.

1737. That permission be given the Rev. Thomas Staples, rector, to make a road or avenue through the west end of the Graveyard, from the Glebe to the Town. (Presumably this is the present Avenue to the Rectory.)

1738. That the shingles to be delivered for use of the Church be viewed and valued by a Carpenter, who shall be sworn to do justice.

1739. Ordered that the Churchwardens within ten days exhibit their accounts to Robert Rainey and Wm. McGown. Otherwise to be prosecuted at next visitation.

1746. And whereas the dues of the Parish Clerk have for some time past been very ill paid, and for the preventing thereof for the future, it was unanimously agreed by the Parishioners, in this present Vestry assembled, that fourpence be apportioned upon and levied off each family in the parish yearly by the Churchwardens or Constable for the time being, to be collected together with the Parish rate or cess, and by them paid to the Parish Clerk.

1746. Ordered that Robert Rainey and John Downing do enquire and have proper satisfaction given them how the sum of £50 allowed to Sir Thomas Webster and James Rankin was expended, and how the £30 levied off the Parish for use of the Steeple was applied.

1758. £3 applotted and levied off the Parish for support of an exposed infant, and that it be admitted into the Foundling Hospital in Dublin.

Ordered that £20 be assessed and levied in gales of £5 a year, till it was so levied, for the purpose of completing and finishing Steeple and Spire.

1761. Agreed that. Robert Burrows, Dunarnon, who was Churchwarden for year 1759, having neglected or refused to settle his accounts, to be forthwith sued in the most speedy and effectual manner, and the expenses to be defrayed out of the cess. (The result of the action taken against him does not appear in the minutes.)

1770. £30 to be applotted for new seating Church from pulpit to west gable, divided into £10 for three years.

1779. Ordered that the Churchwardens borrow a sum sufficient to defray expenses of slating and repairing roof of Church that summer.

1790. £4 to be levied for making a road and pipe from the main street to Church gate.

1799. It is determined by this Vestry that the seat formerly built and occupied by Mrs. Mary Dawson, being purchased by Mr. John Hagan and Mr. David Jennings from the heirs of Mary Dawson, be now given to the said John Hagan and David Jennings as their property.

1800. £20 to be assessed to provide meal for the poor.

Resolved that the Rector, Curate, Churchwardens and the following, viz.—John Hill, John Smyth, Thomas Pollock and James Walsh, be a committee to select and badge the poor of the said Parish: said committee to meet in David Jennings' house on 14th November. (In a number of Parishes a badge was purchased and given to each of the poor, but whether this was done in respect of the poor of this Parish is not mentioned in the minutes.)

In the same year £1 16s 3½d was incurred in sending a foundling to Dublin.

1808. Ordered that the Sexton ring the Church bell every morning at 6 o'clock for the space of 5 minutes.

1809. Ordered that a sum of £21 14s 8d be assessed for cost of gate at graveyard. (This is the gate at present in use on the old graveyard—the date 1809 being plainly visible on it.)

1817. £5 assessed to provide coffins for the poor.

From other entries in the Minute Book, it would appear that those who were able to provide sittings in the Church for themselves and their families, got permission to do so. For the year 1767 there is an entry "That John Downing, of Ballymoghlan, be given liberty to erect a seat in any part of vacant ground in the Church for himself and family, and in 1780 there is a further entry "That 6 feet 2 inches of ground on right side of door be given to Richard Dawson to build a seat, to be finished before next Easter,"; and in case of failure to complete it within that time, he was to lose the ground. At the same meeting it was agreed that the Poors Seat, under the gallery, be given to James and Hugh Nogher, and Edward Marlin, provided they built a seat for the poor before next Easter. In a number of instances the time specified for building seats was extended, and in one instance, for non-compliance, the permission was withdrawn.

It appears that the seats were of the old boxed type, and the doors were bolted on the inside to prevent strangers from entering, and they were so high that the youthful occupants had to stand on tip-toe in order to see the School Children, who were seated on forms in the aisle. It was no uncommon sight for the sexton, during the service, to pass up and down the aisle correcting the childrens' seeming irreverence by pulling their ears, and needless to say this caused great amusement.

It must have been the custom to bury people of note in the Church, as there are several entries under the heading of deaths—"buried in Church," and "buried in Graveyard." From all inquiries that could be made, it would seem that it evidently was the practice to bury people in the space under the seat. And in confirmation of this a number of years ago, when an application was made to the Board of Guardians for permission to bury certain persons in the space inside the ruins, bones were dug up, thus proving that the space had been utilized previously.

In 1828, it was agreed that the sum of £450 shall be paid as the annual composition under 4th, Geo. 4th, chap., 99, for all the Tithes payable out of the Parish of Magherafelt.

The musical portion of the service seemed to be left in the hands of the Clerk, who was paid annually for it. In 1798 there is an entry that "£5 be assessed on the Parish for the purpose of enabling Samuel Graham to attend and do the business of singing." That sum appears to have been paid annually till 1832, when a voluntary choir was organised. In the year 1833 a new gallery for use of the singers was erected, the expenses being borne by the Marquis of Londonderry, Sir

Thomas Bateson, Rev. T. Vesey (rector), Andrew Spotswood, G. W. Blathwayt, D. Chambers, Josiah Bryan, Robert Evans, John Lawrence, Henderson Boyle, Wm. Gausson, David Duncan, John Hull, Henry Richardson, Arthur Dawson, Miss Ash, Miss M'Cellum, Mrs. Hughes, and Mrs. Thompson, all of Magherafelt.

The applotting and collection of the Cess was delegated by the Vestry to certain persons each year, for which remuneration was given. Up to 1740 it would appear that this work had been done gratuitously. In 1741 10s was allowed to Ezekiel Richardson, of Magherafelt, for applotting the Cess. He evidently held the office for a number of years, and the work apparently increased, for his salary was raised to £8, and subsequently to £10. He was succeeded by a John Devlin. As is generally known—or should be—this duty is now in the hands of the County Council, having been transferred to them on the passing of the Local Government Act, 1898, from the Grand Jury.

In the latter years of the reign of George the Third an Act was passed imposing on the vestries the appointment of Officers of Health. The Vestry of that time seemingly did not consider it a matter of importance, as no action was taken when the Act was passed, (but in 1834, having received a reminder in the shape of a letter from Dublin Castle pointing out their neglect, they appointed John Duncan, Wm. Gausson and John Walker, of Magherafelt, and Wm. Graves and John M'Arthur, of Castledawson, to the position. The appointment to this office continued until the Public Health Act was passed, which transferred the duties to the Boards of Guardians, and subsequently to the District Council.

From time to time necessary repairs were executed to the Church. A north aisle was added in 1718, and it was ornamented with a tower and spire in 1790, the latter costing £30. In 1798 £90 was spent in new seating and flooring the Church. In 1822 £238 was spent in re-roofing it, in connection with which a sum of £20 had been lodged in the previous year in Dungannon Savings Bank, and in 1836 a sum of £121 was also spent on necessary repairs. Subsequently the tower began to give way, and in 1855 permission was granted to the taking down of the spire for the purpose of having the tower made secure. The work of taking the spire down was proceeded with, and in order to secure that it would be replaced in as nearly as possible the same shape, when the tower was repaired, each stone, when being removed was numbered. However the

task of replacing the spire was not undertaken, thanks to the successful exertions of the then rector, Rev. Charles King Irwin (father of the late Venerable Archdeacon Irwin, Armagh), who brought before the Salters' Company the great necessity of having a new Church erected. They came into possession of their Estates in May, 1855—the lease to Lord Londonderry and Sir Thomas Bateson having expired. The Salters' Company took a deep interest in the matter and promised to support the Rev. Charles King Irwin and the Select Vestry in their undertaking.

The last service was held in the Old Church on Easter Day, 4th April, 1858.

After being unroofed, the Church Temporality Commissioners had charge of it, and in 1879 it and the graveyard was vested by them in the Board of Guardians, and subsequently in the District Council. The tower is in anything but a safe state, and if it collapsed would do considerable damage. Something should be done to preserve one of the very ancient monuments.

The following is a list of the succession of Clergy in connection with the Old Church:—

| Year. | RECTORS. |
|-------|--|
| 1425. | Malachy O'Mulchallyn. |
| 1425. | Neal O'Corre, Sept. 27. |
| 1440. | Wm. O'Duigryn. |
| 1534. | Seneskyn M'Dowyn or M'Dwyn. |
| 1537. | Toroletus Idondgalyc. |
| 1616. | Ezekial Smith, M.A. |
| 1633. | Joseph Synge. |
| 1635. | Michael Matchett. (He was put to death during the 1641 Rebellion.) |
| 1657. | Samuel Maher. |
| 1663. | Richard Wheelwright, M.A., May 21. |
| 1669. | Andrew Law, April 29. |
| 1680. | Patrick Davison, April 10; died 1685. |
| 1685. | Thomas Ashenden, June 23. |
| 1686. | Thomas Lawson, July 12. |
| 1716. | Thomas Warburton, Jany. 23. |
| 1736. | Thomas Staples, M.A., August 4. |
| 1738. | James Richardson, April 29. |
| 1771. | Alexander Orr, December 12. |
| 1773. | Henry Barnard, April 7. |
| 1792. | Thomas Torrens, May 7. |
| 1797. | John Orr, B.A., T.C.D., May 23. |
| 1807. | Thomas Agmondisham Vesey, B.A., T.C.D., January 31. |
| 1844. | Charles King Irwin, M.A., Oct. 29. |

CURATES.

| | |
|-------|-------------------------------------|
| 1633. | Michael Matchett—afterwards rector. |
| 1708. | Alexander Lawson. |
| 1829. | Thomas Twigg. |
| 1849. | Samuel Twigg. |

THE NEW PARISH CHURCH.

The Company offered a site for the new church, which was accepted by the Vestry as per the following minute:—"1st May, 1855, 'Rev. Charles King-Irwin in the chair. It was 'proposed by Andrew Spotswood, Esq., J.P., 'and seconded by Mr. Samuel Derby, and voted 'unanimously:—"That the plot of ground 'adjoining Widow Sarah Badger's house, at 'the end of Castledawson Street, having been 'granted by The Worshipful Salters' Com- 'pany, be accepted as the site of the new 'Parish Church of Magherafelt.'—Charles 'King-Irwin, rector; Oliver Richardson, 'William John Garvin, churchwardens; 'A. Spotswood, Samuel Derby, Randal York, 'David Chesney."

The necessary preliminary arrangements having been completed, the contract for the erection of the new Church was secured by Messrs. Hugh Henry and Son, Belfast (whose successors are James Henry and Sons, Crumlin Road, Belfast), and on the 28th March, 1856, Mr. James Henry, of that firm, commenced to open the ground for the foundations. In these were sunk upwards of one thousand tons of massive stones before the commencement of "neat masonry," which took place on the 3rd May, 1856.

The foundation stone was laid by the Rev. Charles King-Irwin on 15th July, 1856 (St. Swithin's Day). According to the entry in the Vestry Minute Book, a hole was excavated in the foundation stone, in which was deposited a bottle containing a newspaper of the day, several coins of Queen Victoria, and a parchment scroll with the following inscription:—"Of this Church, to be erected for the 'accommodation of the inhabitants of the 'Parish of Magherafelt, and dedicated to the 'Worship of Almighty God by the name of 'St. Swithin's Church, this principal stone 'of the north-east column was laid on St. 'Swithin's Day, July 15, 1856, by Rev. 'Charles King-Irwin, Incumbent of the 'Parish of Magherafelt, in presence of the 'Master, Wardens and Clerk of The Worship- 'ful Salters' Company of London, who, in 'addition to the free gift of an acre of land 'for a site, have munificently contributed '£4,000 to the cost of the building.—Master, 'Charles Chancellor, Esq.; wardens, Edward 'Upton, Esq.; Arthur Stephen Hill, Esq.; 'clerk, Edward Thompson, Esq.; curate, Rev. 'Samuel Twigg; churchwardens, Mr. Samuel 'Derby, Mr. William Nodwell; architect, 'Joseph Welland, Esq.; builders, Messrs. 'Hugh Henry and Son."

The Belfast News-Letter of the 17th July, 1856, gives the following description of the

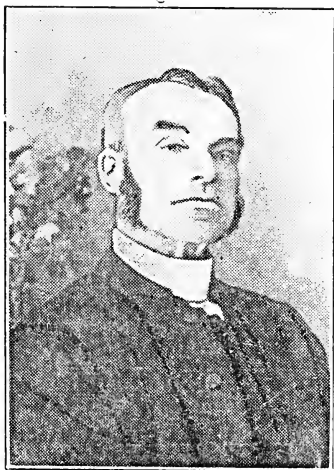
proceedings:—"The thriving little town of 'Magherafelt, on the Salters' Estate in Co. 'Derry, was on Tuesday last the scene of a 'highly interesting ceremony—viz., the 'laying of the 'first stone,' as it is called, of 'St. Swithin's Church. The work was com- 'menced some months ago, but the ceremony 'had been delayed for the arrival of the 'deputation of the Worshipful Company of 'Salters, whose liberality supplied the largest 'portion of the cost. The base of one of the 'columns which will separate the nave from 'the side aisles was reserved to represent 'the 'first stone.' Around the site of this 'column a commodious platform was 'arranged by the forethought of Messrs. 'Henry and Sons, contractors, and in the 'centre was erected 'Shears,' from which the 'massive block of stone was suspended— 'ready to be lowered upon its bed at the 'proper moment. At half past twelve the 'platform was filled with a brilliant assem- 'blage of the rank and fashion of the neigh- 'bourhood, and around the 'Shears' were 'grouped the workmen. The business of the 'day was commenced by the Incumbent, Rev. 'Charles King-Irwin, who delivered a short 'but pertinent address, after which descend- 'ing to the stone, he was presented by Mr. 'James Henry with a costly silver trowel of 'beautiful workmanship, having on one side 'his armoial bearings, and on the other a 'suitable inscription. Mr. Irwin first 'deposited in a cavity, which had been pre- 'pared for its reception, a glass vase con- 'taining a scroll inscribed with the name, 'date, and various other particulars of the 'Church, a newspaper of the day, and several 'contemporary coins, proceeded to read the 'usual prayers; after which, spreading the 'mortar and regulating the descent of the 'stone to its resting-place, he adjusted the 'joints, etc., in a workmanlike manner, and 'striking it thrice with the mallet, declared 'the stone to be well and duly laid. The 'Benediction having been pronounced, the 'meeting was addressed by Charles 'Chancellor, Esq., the Worshipful Master of 'the Salters' Company, at the conclusion of 'which the 'Elite' of the Assembly adjourned 'to 'Glenbrook,' the temporary residence of 'the deputation (kindly lent by the Cassidy 'family), whose hospitality had provided a 'sumptuous 'dinner.' The Church, 'designed by that eminent architect, Joseph 'Welland, Esq., is to be decorated in the 'fourteenth century style, consists of nave, 'side aisles and chancel, with robing and 'organ chambers. The materials are the 'fine black basalts of the neighbourhood with 'dressings of a pure white freestone from



REV. CHAS. KING-IRWIN, M.A.



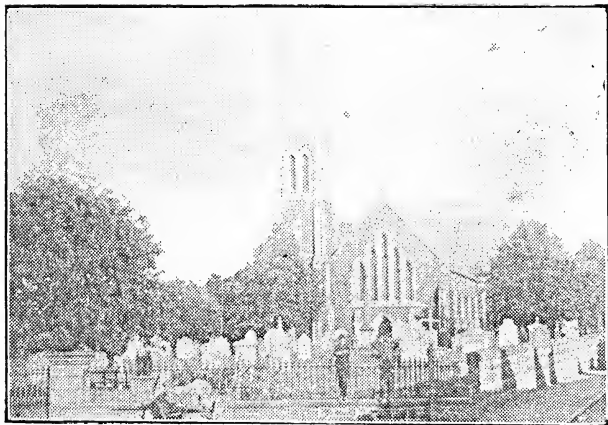
REV. JAMES HOGAN, M.A.



REV. THOMAS JORDAN, D.D.



REV. G. W. LINDSAY, M.A.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.



REV. ALEX. MONTGOMERY.



REV. GEO. GILLESPIE, M.A.

"Scotland. When completed it promises to 'be the ecclesiastical gem of Ulster.'"

Amongst those present in addition to those already mentioned were Andrew Spotswood and family, Millbrook; Mrs. Irwin and the Misses Irwin, Rectory; Dr. and Mrs. Vesey, Rev. Samuel Twigg and family, Mr. W. A. Gausson (father of Mr. A. D. A. Gausson, J.P.) and the Misses Gausson, Lake View, Ballyronan; Mr. Wm. Gausson, Magherafelt; Mr. Wm. M. Gausson, Lake Lodge, Ballyronan; Mr. John Lawrence and Mrs. Lawrence, Rev. J. J. Jackson and the Misses Jackson, Ballinderry; Rev. George Greer and Mrs. Greer, Woods Chapel; The Messrs. Gilmore, Messrs. Ash, C. K. Irwin (the late Venerable Archdeacon of Armagh), Mrs. Graves and family, Graves End, Castledawson; Mr. W. J. Walland, Mr. W. McCollum, Mr. J. T. Bryan and Mrs. Bryan, Mrs. Duncan, James Duncan, Mrs. Smith, Rev. Augustus Fitzgerald, D.D., Rector of Portadown (afterwards Dean of Armagh), etc.

The work of building the Church continued in a satisfactory manner, and early in 1858 the contractors brought their labours to a close. It was dedicated on the 7th April, 1858, by the Lord Bishop of Kilmore (Marcus Gervaise Beresford), acting for the Lord Primate. The ceremony is described in the "Belfast News-Letter" of the 8th April, 1858, as follows:—Consecration of St. Swithin's Church, Magherafelt—

"This beautiful structure—one of the 'happiest efforts of Joseph Welland, Esq.—'whose taste is fast creating what was so long 'wanted—an Irish Ecclesiastical architecture'—was consecrated on Wednesday, 7th April, '1858, under certainly the most unfavourable circumstances, as far as the elements were 'concerned, that could be imagined. The 'liberality of the Belfast and Ballymena 'Railway Company had offered facilities to 'visitors, and notwithstanding the incessant 'rain, a congregation of close on six hundred 'people was assembled at twelve o'clock to 'receive the Lord Bishop of Kilmore, and a 'truly beautiful sight presented itself to the 'spectators on entering the Church, which 'may be technically described as of the early 'decorative style, consisting of nave, side 'aisles, transept and chancel, with the 'peculiarity of a stately arch piercing the 'western tower which, surmounted by a 'graceful spire rising to a height of 139 feet, 'is fitted with sittings and made available 'to the congregation. The chancel is 22 feet 'in width, paved with Minton's encaustic 'tiles. The entire length of the building from 'east to west being 117 feet; from north to 'south, between the transepts, the clear 'space is 75 feet, and in the nave 53 feet. 'The whole interior, including the rich-

'varnished deal. The seats are open stalls, 'with carved finials, and afford 650 com- 'modious sittings. The windows are of 'graceful gothic character and rich tracery, 'and are filled with stained glass by Ward. of 'London: and a magnificent organ of great 'power and sweetness of tone has been 'erected by the eminent house of Robson, of 'St. Martin's Lane, London. Fully one half 'of the cost of this beautiful Church has 'been defrayed by the Worshipful Salters' 'Company of London. The greatest credit is 'due to the execution of the work by those 'well-known contractors, Messrs. Henry and 'Son, who have carried out the various 'details with that carefulness and integrity 'which have obtained for them such high 'reputation in this branch of their profession. 'Precisely at 12 o'clock The Lord Bishop of 'Kilmore, attended by the Rev. James Jones, 'and Rev. Alexr. Irwin arrived, and was 'received at the stately north-western 'porch by the rector, Rev. Charles King- 'Irwin, and a number of other clergy. The '24th Psalm having been recited by the 'Bishop and the clergy in procession, the 'Consecration Service was performed, con- 'cluding with a most excellent and appro- 'priate sermon by The Right Rev. Preacher. 'The whole ceremonial was truly interesting, and was signalized by the presence and 'sympathy of persons of all religious 'denominations in the neighbourhood. 'Among the many advantages which the 'improving town of Magherafelt may trace to 'the fostering care of its liberal landlords, 'there may now be reckoned one of the most 'beautiful churches in Ireland, faultless in 'its architecture and correct in all its 'ecclesiastical details."

The congregation at the service numbered 560, and the following Sunday 614 attended.

The vestry and parishioners held a special meeting in the Church on the 19th April, 1858, when resolutions were passed expressive of their grateful sense of the liberality of the Salters' Company in contributing not only land for the site of the Church, but also their munificent donation towards its erection, and in a letter dated 17th May, 1858, the then clerk of the Company (Edward Thompson, Esq.), in acknowledging receipt of the resolutions wrote—"The Court of Assistants have received the testimony of good 'feeling with much satisfaction, and they 'trust that the inhabitants of Magherafelt 'will for many years to come, derive all those 'important benefits from the services in the 'sacred edifice which they had in view, in 'promoting its erection, induced thereby by 'deep reverence towards God and due regard 'to the Protestant Religion."

The windows, 21 in number, were supplied by Messrs. Ward and Hughes, of London, and cost £370. Three of the windows in the

western gable contain coats-of-arms of Radulphus Whistler, 1620 (lessee of the Salters Company); Rev. Thomas Warberton, Rector from 1717 to 1736; Rev. J. Richardson, Rector from 1738 to 1772; Rev. T. Torrens, Rector from 1793 to 1880; Rev. T. Agmon Vesey, Rector from 1807 to 1844; Rev. Charles King-Irwin, Rector from 1844 to 1861; The Worshipful Salters' Company; Sir Robert Bateson, Belvoir Park, Belfast, who was Co-Lessee with the Marquis of Londonderry of the Salters' Estate. Henderson, Graves, of Gravesend, Castledawson, and Augustus Shiel, Castledawson, landlords in the Parish, and Andrew Spotswood, J.P., then agent of the Salters' Company.

The bell was procured from Mr. Thomas Hodgers, Dublin, and was hung on the 2nd January, 1858. It was first tolled for the funeral of Samuel McDowell, the only workman engaged at the building, who died during the progress of the work.

The five minutes' bell at present in use was the one last used in the old church, and cost £10 in 1788.

The organ, which was built by Messrs. Robson, St. Martin's Lane, London, cost £200, and was erected in 1858. During the Incumbency of the Rev. James Hogan, the organ was considered insufficient for the size of the Church, and in 1866 an addition was made to it, which cost £168 12s 6d. This addition was suggested by Mr. F. W. Hogan (Rev. F. W. Hogan, M.A., until recently Rector of All Saints' Church, Eglington), who raised the amount, and Mr. M'Combe, of Belfast, carried out the work. The musical abilities of the Hogan Family are widely known. The choir in connection with St. Swithin's Church, trained by them, was considered by many good judges to be—at that period—the finest in Ulster, and many of the inhabitants of the town at the present day have pleasant recollections of the musical treats given by this Family on the lawn in front of the Rectory during the long summer evenings.

The first organist was Mr. W. B. Charters (father of the writer of "Wanderers Football Notes," which appear weekly in the Belfast "Evening Telegraph.") He held the position till January, 1855. He was succeeded by Mr. J. A. Phillips, who occupied the post for a short time only. Miss Smyth, of Derry, was the next holder of the office, from 1885 till 1894. She was succeeded by Miss Chapman (afterwards Mrs. Foy), who held the position till 1897, when Miss Barber, the present organist, was appointed.

The first sexton was Thomas Hudson, who was appointed on the 19th March, 1858. In addition to his ordinary duties as sexton, he undertook to ring the large bell of the Church for ten minutes at six o'clock in the

morning and nine o'clock at night, from the 1st March till 1st November, and at seven o'clock in the morning and eight o'clock at night from the 1st November till 1st March. This custom has long since ceased. Hudson died in 1895, when the present sexton (Wm. John M'Cart) was appointed.

The first marriage celebrated in the Church took place on the 20th May, 1858, between Hugh Nimmins, of Randalstown, described as a gold miner, and Mary Ann Maguire, of Castledawson.

The first child baptised was Alexander, son of William and Jane Dunbar, of Magherafelt, on 11th April, 1858,

The first interment in the new graveyard was that of Lydia, Elizabeth, wife of William Gausson, of Magherafelt, on the 6th July, 1863.

The Bible and Service Books cost £14 16s, and were purchased in 1858, and in 1861 the Rev. C. K. Irwin presented the Silver Flagon now in use, and which cost £21. In the latter end of 1861 he was appointed Rector of Loughgall, and was succeeded in the Rectorship of Magherafelt by the Rev. James Hogan, who continued till 1878. It was during his incumbency that Mr. Gladstone's Act disestablishing the Church was passed, and the principal work of carrying out the necessary reforms in Church government in this Parish fell on his shoulders. Up till 1869 Select Vestries were non-existent—they being brought into being after the passing of Act just referred to. On the 6th June, 1870, the first Select Vestry of the Parish was appointed, and comprised the following:—H. E. Cartwright, J.P.; Dr. John Stuart Vesey, H. E. Kincaid, Robert Hanna, Robert Duncan, Matthew Nodwell, John Garvin, jun.; William Doberty, T. C. Monteith, Wm. Lennox, Horace T. Gausson, and Randal York. Of these only one is now living—viz., Mr. H. T. Gausson, who at present resides in Portstewart. The first Parochial Nominators were Colonel Cassidi, H. E. Cartwright, J.P., and Samuel Derby; diocesan synodsmen, Colonel Cassidi and John Garvin; parochial treasurer, Colonel Cassidi, and hon. secretary of select vestry, Robert Duncan.

The Bier at present in use was presented by the Rev. James Hogan in 1874, and in 1877 he induced the Salters' Company to make a gift of the clock to the Church, which was supplied and erected in that year by the late Mr. Brice Galway, sen., Magherafelt, at a cost of £105. So great a benefit has the clock been to the townspeople, that in 1902, through Mr. J. H. Crawford's influence, an annual subscription of £1 10s 0d has been given by the Market Trustees to the Church-wardens towards keeping it in order. It was also during the Rev. James Hogan's rectorship

that the present Rectory and lands were purchased out at a cost of £595 16s 6d. The following is a copy of the entry in books of the Representative Church Body in reference to the purchase:—

| | | | |
|---|------|----|---|
| Lodged by Rev. J. Hogan towards purchase of Glebe | £445 | 0 | 0 |
| Church Officers' Composition | | | |
| Balance | 135 | 19 | 1 |
| Glebe Rent Account Transfer | 15 | 12 | 0 |
| | £596 | 11 | 1 |
| Lodged in excess—refunded to Mr. T. H. S. Taylor | 0 | 14 | 7 |
| | £595 | 16 | 6 |

Of the sum of £445, £100 was borrowed from the Commissioners of Public Works. The instalments of this loan were paid by the succeeding incumbents. The debt has been extinguished by the exertions of the present rector, Rev. G. W. Lindsay, A.M. It may be interesting to note that the Rectory was built in 1787 at a cost of £574 10s 0d, of which £92 6s 1d was a gift, and the remainder a loan from the Board of First Fruits. It has undergone extensive repairs—the cost of which was defrayed out of £329 4s 8d, realised by a bazaar held in Magherafelt on the 16th and 17th July, 1909.

The Rev. James Hogan died in October, 1878, and the Rev. Dr. Jordan was appointed about December of that year. He afterwards became treasurer of Armagh Cathedral, a position which he held till his death in 1908. During his tenure of office the

old system of heating the Church by stoves was abolished, and the present one—by hot water—was substituted in 1896, at the suggestion of Mr. J. H. Crawford, at a cost of £123 17s 10d. The late Mr. T. H. S. Taylor who was a valued member of the congregation, in addition to many acts of kindness, presented the gas lamp, situated in the Church walk, and by his will left his residence in Church Street to the Rector and his successors for the benefit of the Parish. The two cottages at the Rectory gate, the kitchen garden and the private walk from the Rectory to the Church were purchased in 1886 from the Salters' Co. for £100, and in 1903 the Lectern, costing 50 guineas, was procured through the kind exertions of Mr. W. Adamson, manager of the Northern Bank.

The congregation are greatly indebted to the late Dr. Jordan for the sum of £200, the interest of which goes towards the assessment account. The present incumbent, Rev. G. W. Lindsay, A.M., was appointed in 1907, and in addition to having necessary alterations made in the Rectory and grounds, the Church, chancel and baptistry have been re-tiled, the cost having been obtained through his exertions from the Beresford Fund. A magnificent oak communion table was presented by Mr. Ernest Cartright last year in memory of his parents, and Dr. and Mrs. Cassidi, Derby, presented a solid brass book rest for the communion table. The actual cost incurred in the erecting of this beautiful Church is not recorded, but it must have amounted to between £8,000 and £10,000.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The advent of Presbyterianism into the North of Ireland dates practically from the Plantation period. Scotland was its home, the Church being founded there by John Knox, and the first General Assembly was held in the year 1560.

Owing to the Rebellion of certain Irish Chieftains, King James I. embraced the opportunity to confiscate their lands, which comprised six of the principal counties in Ulster, and to plant them with English and Scotch settlers. It is said that the latter only sparsely responded, and those who did come over were, at first, only allowed to settle by connivance, as there was on the Statute Book an old Act of Parliament prohibiting them from settling in Ireland. However, on the revocation of that Act they flocked over in great numbers, being allowed fully to participate in all the benefits of citizenship, and occupied large portions of Antrim and Down, subsequently making their way to Derry, Tyrone and Donegal. They, naturally, brought with them their manners, customs, industrial habits, language and religion.

The first Presbyterian Minister to come over from Scotland was the Rev. Edward Brice who, in 1613 settled at Broadisland, or Ballycarry, situated between Carrickfergus and Larne, and according to the Rev. David Stewart, B.A., in "Presbyterian in Ireland," he was admitted to the Established Church by Echlin, Bishop of Down. He enjoyed the tithes, and though preaching in the Established Church, he expounded Presbyterian doctrine and conducted the service in Presbyterian form. It also appears that the Visitation Book of 1622 records that "Edward Brice, M.A., served the cures of Templecorran and Kilroot; Church at Kilroot decayed; that at Ballycarry has the walls newly erected but not roofed." And a tradition had it that Brice's ministrations included also the Church of Ballykeel, in Islandmagee.

During the Rebellion of 1641 great devastation was wrought amongst the Presbyterians. A large number were killed and a great many fled from the country. This, to some extent was compensated for, when a Scottish Army, in charge of Robert Monroe, was sent over and landed in Carrickfergus in April, 1642. And we are told by the Rev. J. B. Woodburn, M.A., in "The Ulster Scot" that the regiments which came over were accompanied by their chaplains, that the soldiers were Presbyterians, and many of the officers were elders, and that two months after their arrival in Ulster, those Chaplains formed the first regular Presbytery at Carrickfergus. It met on the 10th June,

1642, and consisted of five Ministers and four Elders. Those Presbyterians were further augmented by a large emigration of members of their Faith from Scotland, which began about 1652, and continued for some years, and such progress was made that in 1660 there were over 70 Ministers and about 80 congregations in Ulster.

M'Comb, the poet of the Presbyterian Church, wrote the following in reference to the bi-centenary of the Church, which took place in 1842:

Two hundred years ago, there came from
Scotland's storied land,
To Carrick's old and fortress town, a
Presbyterian band;
They planted on the Castle wall the Banner
of the Blue;
And worshipped God in simple form—as
Presbyterians do.
Oh! hallow'd be their memory, who in our
land did sow,
The goodly seed of Gospel truth, two hundred
years ago.
Two hundred years ago was heard, upon the
tenth of June,
On Carrick's shore, the voice of prayer, and
psalm with solemn tune.
"Do good in Thy Good pleasure, Lord, unto
Thy Zion here;
The walls of our Jerusalem, establish Thou
and rear."
Thus prayer and praise were made to God, nor
dread of popish foe,
Dismayed our fathers in their work, two
hundred years ago.
Two hundred years ago, our Church a little
one appeared—
Five ministers, and elders four, the feeble
vessel steer'd.
But now five hundred pastors, and four
thousand elders stand,
A host of faithful witnesses within our native
land.
Their armour is the Spirit's sword, and
onward as they go;
They wave the flag their fathers waved, two
hundred years ago.
Two hundred years ago, afar no Gospel sound
was known.
The heathen men, unheeded then, bow'd down
to wood and stone;
But better days have dawn'd on us—our
missionary band
Are publishing salvation now on India's
golden strand;
And to the sons of Abraham, our sons
appointed go—
To Jacob's race—rejected—scorned—two
hundred years ago.

So far as information can be obtained, it appears that to Knockeloughrim belongs the honour of having the first building which served as a Presbyterian Church in this district. It was situated at the north side of the Hill, and the services were first held about the year 1690. These were continued for a number of years, and members of that faith from Ballyronan, Magherafelt, Castledawson, Tobermore and Maghera worshipped there. In 1836 the walls of the building were still in existence. The second Church was erected in Maghera in 1695, and the first Communion service was held in that Church by the Rev. John Tomb, on the first Sabbath in September, 1695; the second on the 3rd Sabbath in August, 1696; the third on the 28th August, 1697; the fourth on the 28th August, 1698, and the fifth on the 30th July, 1699. In the year 1700 Castledawson Presbyterian Church was organised from Maghera, the first Communion being held at "Dawson's Bridge," as it was then called, by the Rev. John Tomb, of Maghera, on the 6th August, 1701; the second on the 9th August, 1702; the third one the 1st August, 1703, and the fourth on the 2nd July, 1704. The Rev. John Tomb subsequently left Maghera and became the first Minister of Castledawson.

The Presbyterians of Magherafelt, not having a Church of their own, worshipped in Castledawson till the year 1738. They originally formed part of Moneymore congregation, and in 1692 an attempt was made to have it erected into a separate congregation, but it did not succeed. It was then annexed to Castledawson. In 1737 Messrs. Robert Rainey and Wm. Johnston appeared as Commissioners before the Synod, and stated that Magherafelt, being a large town in which there were 56 families of Dissenters, they ought to have a place of Worship of their own. Their pleading was successful, and in 1738 the Synod erected Magherafelt into a separate Congregation, appointing the Rev. Hugh Wallace (who had been the Minister of Castledawson) as their first Minister, and added 50 families to it which formerly belonged to Moneymore. The Church in Magherafelt was, it seems, erected in 1736, and there is a tradition that they demanded a share of the services of the Rev. Hugh Wallace, but the Castledawson people would not agree. The Rev. Mr. Wallace, it seems, went to preach one Sabbath in Magherafelt, and his old congregation being displeased, he removed altogether to Magherafelt.

The first Session held by the Rev. Mr. Wallace took place in February, 1739, and the members present were Rev. Hugh Wallace, Robert Adams, Matthew Wilson, John Given, John Stitt, and John Buntin. Mr. Wallace died in 1761, and the office of Minister must have remained vacant for some time, for his successor, Rev. William Wilson,

was not appointed till 1765. He ministered till 1785, when he was called to Mary's Abbey in Dublin. He was succeeded by the Rev. George Dougall, who was ordained in May, 1786, and he laboured there till he died in 1810, leaving a widow and family, and was buried in the graveyard attached to the Church. Another interval occurred (this time lasting three years), as Rev. James Wilson was not appointed to the oversight of the Congregation till 24th September, 1813.

In 1828 the following were appointed Elders, the election taking place on the 11th May—Allen Brown, Magherafelt; John Brown, Ballynagowan; Job Palmer, Roshure; John Porter, Killyboggan; Andrew Brooks, John Shannon, Killyfaddy; John Duncan, The Rock, Killyfaddy; David Steele, Killyfaddy; Joseph Sloss, Ballymulderg; John Archer, Ballyriff; Hugh Stinton, Caraloon, and David Duncan, Drumrainey. Representatives of the majority of these families are still in the neighbourhood. The Rev. Mr. Wilson resided in Prospect House, Aghagaskin (now occupied by Mr. John Houston), and continued his pastorate in Magherafelt till his death in 1854.

On the death of the Rev. James Wilson in 1854, the Rev. Alexander Montgomery was called from Hillsborough and installed in September of that year. At the outset of his ministry he found the Church building in a very unsatisfactory condition. Its state is described in the "Terrier," issued by the Salters' Company in 1815, as follows:—"The 'Presbyterian Church in the town of 'Magherafelt is an ancient erection in the 'street leading to Ballyronan. It is in a 'dilapidated condition, and is in parts in the 'inside propped up.' He set to work to have a new Church worthy of the congregation provided, and with such marvellous results that within the short space of three years, not alone was a splendid Church erected, but also a very fine Manse. His efforts were most energetically supported by the members of his congregation, and it must have been a joyous recompense to all concerned for the time and labour they had expended, to have realized such gratifying results of their labours.

The Church was opened for Divine Service on Sunday, 8th November, 1857. The following is a copy of the admission ticket:—

NEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MAGHERAFELT,

will be opened on Sabbath, 8th of November, 1857, by the Rev. John Macnaughtan, A.M., Belfast.

Service to commence at 12 o'clock. A collection to aid in defraying the debt to be taken at the close.

Admission Ticket—One Shilling and Sixpence.

The "Coleraine Chronicle" had the following account of the service:—"New Presbyterian Church, Magherafelt. This handsome Church was opened for public worship on Sunday, 8th November, 1857, by the 'Rev. John Macnaughtan, A.M., Belfast. The Rev. gentleman, after praise, prayer and reading of Scripture, selected as his text Acts 4-12, from which he preached a 'brilliant and highly edifying discourse to a 'crowded, respectable and most attentive audience. At the conclusion of the service a collection was taken to aid in defraying the debt still due on the building. The 'collectors were:—Captain Graves, Captain 'Gausson, R.N.; John S. Vesey, M.D.; 'Messrs. A. Spotswood, J.P.; W. Hemphill, 'Thomas Adair, J. T. Bryan, William 'Gausson, John Lawrence, William Glasgow, 'sen.; Wm. Gausson, W. McIntyre, and W. 'A. Gausson. These were assisted by the 'following members of the Committee of the 'Congregation:—Dr. Shannon, Messrs. W. 'E. Walker, H. Walker, John Graham, J. 'Duncan, A. McFall, and R. J. Barnett. 'The amount realised at the opening services 'including donations sent by friends who 'could not attend, was £220."

The contractors were the well-known firm of Messrs. Young and McKenzie, Belfast. It is not known exactly the cost of building the Church, but it is recorded that the Salters' Company gave a donation of £1,200, and the congregation contributed £1,800. The present Church stands about a couple of perches to the rear of the site of the old building. During the ministry of the Rev. Alexander Montgomery, the Manse and grounds were purchased free of debt by the congregation at a cost of £700. After a ministry of thirty-five years, he died in February, 1889.

He was succeeded by the present minister, the Rev. George Gillespie, M.A., who was appointed in May, 1889. Since his installation, Musgraves system of heating churches by hot water, was introduced in 1890 at a cost of £100, and in 1902 the lighting by oil gave place to that of acetylene gas, at a cost of £100.

The first sexton of the present Church was William Anderson, and the present sexton, Joseph Nevin, has occupied the position for a lengthened period.

The last marriage celebrated in the old Church was between Hugh Robinson, Belfast, and Mary Shannon (daughter of Dr. Shannon, Magherafelt): while those who had the privilege of being the first persons united in marriage in the present Church were John Barclay, Durnascallion, and Hussy Porter, Killyboggan.

The first baptism took place on the 6th December, 1857, the infant being Andrew Paul, son of Andrew and Eliza Jane Paul, of Ballymoghau.

Three of the ministers—Rev. George Dougal, Rev. James Wilson, and Rev. A. Montgomery, are buried in the graveyard attached to the Church.

The Rev. Geo. Gillespie is ably supported in the work of the congregation by Henry Browne, Ballynagowan; Robert Eakin, Ballymoghau, and John Haw, Drumrainey, elders; John Boden, J.P., who has been treasurer of the Sustentation Fund for the past twenty years, and Alex. Munroe, who during the past eight years has faithfully discharged the duties of Superintendent of the Sabbath School.

Jubilee services were held on the 17th November, 1907, the preachers being:—Morning—Rev. George Gillespie, M.A., and evening, Rev. Wm. Reid, Moneymore, and large congregations attended.

It is now 178 years since this congregation was organised, and Mr. Gillespie is the sixth minister in succession. He is also the third minister during a period of more than 100 years. There are few congregations in the General Assembly whose ministers have had such long pastorates as those of the First Church of Magherafelt.

UNION ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

It would seem that this Church owed its existence primarily to differences which arose in the Congregation of First Magherafelt. When those differences first took shape is not definitely known. But in The News-Letter of the 7th December, 1864, there appeared a statement, signed by the Rev. Alexander Montgomery, setting forth that at a recent meeting of the congregation, he announced that the Salters' Company had consented to grant a lease, in perpetuity, of the Manse premises, at a nominal rent, and that on the motion of Dr. Shannon, seconded by Mr. McFall, a cordial vote of the thanks of the Congregation was passed to the Company for the valuable boon they had conferred—which was another instance of that generous liberality towards the cause of religion which they had so frequently manifested. A vote of thanks was also passed to the agent of the Estate, Mr. Andrew Spotswood, for his kind attention in forwarding applications to London on behalf of the congregation, as well as for his uniform sympathy and interest in everything affecting the well-being of the congregation.

In The Banner of Ulster (a newspaper which has ceased to exist) of the 17th December, 1864, appeared a letter dated 13th December, 1864, and signed by W. E. Walker, J.P.; James Sands, Charles Pollock, Emerson G. Sands, John Glover, Hugh Walker, Wm. S. McGowan, Andrew Allen, John Anderson, Wm. Davison, Wm. Carr, Wm. Porter, and Joseph Johnston, who stated that they were Members of the Congregation, and most of them Members of the Committee who had managed the secular affairs of the Church. They asserted that the statement of the Rev. Alex. Montgomery's, in The News-Letter, was the first intimation they had heard of the meeting, and alleged that the services of some of them had been disparaged by Mr. Montgomery.

The matter of dispute came under the notice of the Presbytery of Magherafelt, and on the 24th December, 1864, the Rev. Thomas Witherow, of Maghera, Clerk of the Presbytery, wrote that the Presbytery's attention had been called to a letter which appeared in the Belfast papers of the 15th, 16th and 17th December, 1864, signed by thirteen persons, professing to be Members of the Congregation, and the Presbytery had resolved to hold a meeting at Magherafelt on the 17th January, 1865, to investigate the whole matter. The Presbytery

met, and after an investigation, lasting six days, they came to the following resolutions on the 2nd February, 1865:—

1st.—The letter of the thirteen members of the Congregation be unconditionally withdrawn, and is hereby withdrawn.

2nd.—Without expressing any opinion on the evidence, nothing has come out in the course of this investigation which effects unfavourably in the slightest degree the Ministerial character and standing of Mr. Montgomery.

3rd.—That we have unimpaired confidence in him, as an able and faithful Minister, in every way worthy of the esteem of his people and the respect of the public.

4th.—That the services of Mr. W. E. Walker, J.P., have been of very great value to the Congregation, and to the Presbyterian cause in Magherafelt, and nothing has occurred in connection with this affair to diminish our high opinion of him as a man of integrity and honour.

5th.—At the instance of the Presbytery the parties in the present action have agreed to a cordial reconciliation, and we recommend all parties alike to forgive and forget the past, and to live and work in harmony for the time to come.

6th.—That the Presbytery appoint the Rev. H. B. Wilson and Rev. T. Witherow, ministers, and Messrs. J. A. Robson, Maghera, and James McMillan, Cookstown, elders, to act with Mr. Montgomery as an interm session until such time as in the judgment of the Presbytery additional elders can be appointed with advantage to the congregation.

7th.—That we think it expedient without appointing a Committee, meanwhile the gentlemen already acting on behalf of the Congregation in secular matters—W. E. Walker, J.P., and Archibald McFall be requested to continue to act as hitherto—the one as Treasurer, and the other as Secretary.

8th.—That Mr. Wilson and Mr. Witherow be appointed to assist the Congregation by their presence and counsel, in appointing Trustees for the Lease of the Manse when the proper time arrived.

The recommendations of the Presbytery failed to effect a reconciliation, for on the 13th February, 1865, a memorial was prepared for presentation to the Salters' Company, in which the opinion was expressed "that it was desirable and 'absolutely necessary that a second 'Presbyterian House of Worship should be 'erected in Magherafelt.'" This was signed by Wm. E. Walker, John Glover, Robert Sands and Sons, Hugh Walker, Wm. Allen, Andrew Allen, Robert Cochrane, and Wm. Carr, all of Magherafelt, and Wm. Porter, Killyboggin. There is no record at hand as to the answer of the Salters' Company to the Memorial.

On the 16th May, 1865, a Memorial, signed by Messrs. W. E. Walker and John Glover, was presented to the Moderator and Members of the Synod of Ballymena and Coleraine, in which it was alleged that the Rev. Mr. Montgomery had failed to carry out certain undertakings. The proceedings of this Synod was reported in *The Coleraine Chronicle* of the 20th May, 1865, at which the Rev. Mr. Montgomery and Messrs. Walker and Glover attended. The result was that a Commission was appointed to hold a conference, with the object of effecting a reconciliation, and to report to a meeting of the Synod, which was to be held during the sitting of the Assembly.

The Commission met on the 19th June, 1865, and representatives of both parties attended and were requested to put their "ultimatum" on paper. This having been done, the Commission drew up their report and presented it to the Synod. The Synod met on the 7th July, 1865, and after consideration of the report of the Commission decided, owing to the dissensions that had occurred in the congregation, to ask the Assembly to empower them, if they saw cause, to organise a new congregation in Magherafelt, and to decide what pecuniary compensation, if any, should be given to the retiring party.

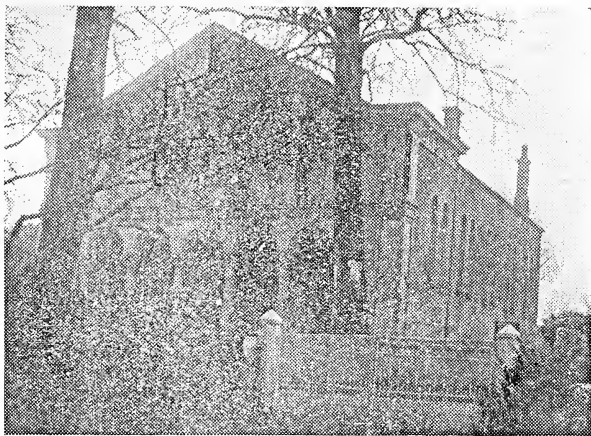
A considerable time intervened, and on the 21st May, 1866, a memorial to the Magherafelt Presbytery (which was to meet at Portrush) was drawn up, in which it was stated that the Presbyterian population of the district in 1861 was 2,400, that there existed ample material for a second congregation; that they had procured a favourable site from the Salters' Company; that they had concluded a contract for £1,580 for the building of the Church; that the architects were Messrs. Boyd and Ball; that they intended calling a permanent pastor, and promised £100 per annum for the first three years, and £60 a year afterwards, and they prayed that they be organised into a congregation to be called "Union Road."

The signatories to the memorial were:—William E. Walker, Hugh Walker, James Sands, John Glover, Robert Cochrane, Scott Lindsay, Andrew Allen, Richard Gilmore, William Allen, William Carr, John Cousley, William Bradley, William Porter, George Stewart, Matthew Bowman, Samuel Porter, William Thompson, and James Henderson (all of Magherafelt), John Campbell (Drumrainey), Thomas Houston, Hugh Stewart, William Stewart, Abraham Stewart, John Stewart (all of Aghagaskin), James Hayes (Ballymoghlan), Joseph Johnston, Desertmartin; John Auderson, Toberhead; Eaton Crossett, Carmean; Robert Corbett, Drumrainey; Wm. Porter and Henry Porter, Killyboggin; Wm. S. McGowan, Grange; Charles Pollock, Farnhill; Gabriel Cathcart, Moymucklemurray; Hugh Ekin, Thomas Ekin, Robert Armstrong, and Samuel Barclay, of Megargy; Wm. Ferris, Glenmaquill; Hugh Barclay and John Buck, Killyfaddy; Robert Duncan and Richard Crossett, Coolshinney; Alexander L. Richey, Dunroan; Henry Dobbin, Dunarmon; Wm. Davison, Lislabanagh; James Caldwell, Rosgarland; David Robertson, Glenbrook; John Brown and James Johnston, Curr, and Samuel Fleming, Roshure. Mr. Glover and Mr. Hugh Walker were appointed to present the Memorial.

The Presbytery refused to grant the prayer of the Memorial, and the matter was brought before the Synod, who reversed the decision of the Presbytery. It then came before the General Assembly. Dr. Barnett, of Moneymore, and Mr. Houston, of Bellaghy, objected to the organization of the Congregation, but the Assembly directed the Magherafelt Presbytery to organise the second Congregation at their first meeting (to be held in Finvey), and ordered that the Second or Union Road Congregation be transferred to Tyrone Presbytery. The Assembly refused to entertain a Memorial presented by Mr. Glover and Mr. Hugh Walker asking for compensation from the "Old House." Thus Union Road Congregation was established, and came under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Tyrone.

The erection of this Church was completed in the year 1867, the contractor being Mr. George R. Tipping, now of Castledawson, and the cost was £1,951. It was opened on the 22nd September, 1867, the sermon being preached by the Rev. John Hall, D.D.

The following interesting account of the opening appeared at the time:—"Union 'Road Church. This new and elegant 'Church was opened for Public Worship on 'the 22nd September, 1867, by the Rev. 'John Hall, D.D. Long before the hour 'appointed for morning service the road and



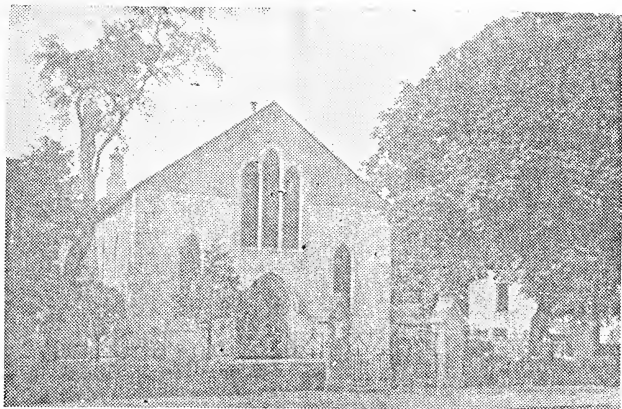
UNION ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.



REV. SAMUEL McCUNE.



REV. G. W. D. REA, B.A.



METHODIST CHURCH.



REV. W. MAGUIRE.



REV. J. J. BEACON.

"space before the Church were crowded by 'People eager to obtain admission. The 'doors were thrown open at a quarter past 'eleven o'clock, and in less than half an 'hour every seat in the Church was filled. 'The Committee had forms at once laid 'down along the spacious aisles, which were 'immediately occupied to the very doors. 'Dr. Hall preached a most impressive and 'eloquent sermon from Deut., c. 32, v. 4 and '5. Throughout the discourse the Doctor 'nobly sustained the high and distinguished 'character he has so justly and honourably 'gained as a pulpit orator of uncommon 'earnestness and great power. He has 'made a lasting impression on the people of 'Magherafelt who, while they acknowledge 'with deep gratitude his kindness in coming 'to open their new Church at a time when 'the arrangement of his domestic affairs, 'on the eve of his removal to the far west, 'must have been very pressing on him, feel 'that the Presbyterian cause in Ireland has 'lost in the removal of Dr. Hall to New 'York, a man who would have been mighty 'for good in his day and generation in this 'country. After the sermon a collection was 'taken up in aid of the building fund of the 'Church, which amounted to £162 15s 0d. 'The collectors were Col. R. P. Dawson, 'M.P.; A. Spotswood, J.P.; J. J. Clarke, 'J.P.; Largautogher, Maghera (father of 'Col. J. J. Clark, D.L.); Thomas S. Ash, 'J.P.; John Raphael, John O'Neill, A. 'Beckett, M.D. (Moneyre); John Robson, 'R. A. Duncan, Thomas Paul, Thomas 'Rodgers, M.D.; J. S. Vesey, M.D.; John 'Lavens, and W. G. Thompson." Dr. Hall also preached at the evening service to a large congregation.

On the following Sabbath the pulpit was occupied by the Rev. John Macaulay, D.D., of New York, and at the urgent request of the then Committee, Dr. Macaulay continued his ministrations for some time, after which a list of candidates was made out, and the candidates' trial sermons preached. Amongst those who were invited was the Rev. J. B. Doherty, afterwards Rev. Professor Doherty, the late Under Secretary for Ireland, and now Member of Parliament for Derry City. He preached on the 19th January, 1868, and also on the 22nd March, 1868, and was one of the four selected out of the list. He was not, however, destined to become the first minister of Union Road, that honour falling to the Rev. John Hemphill, who was ordained on the 31st July, 1868. In order, if possible, to liquidate the debt then remaining, he left on the 13th March, 1869, for a tour through the United States, and after a very successful mission, he returned on the 3rd January, 1870, and handed over a substantial sum to the Committee. His eloquence in America was so much appreciated that he was called to Calvary, San Francisco, and he preached his farewell sermon on the 20th February, 1870.

He was succeeded by the Rev. John S. Hamilton, who was ordained on the 27th

December, 1870, and occupied the pulpit on the 1st January, 1871. His ministry was of comparatively short duration, as he was called to Banbridge, and bade farewell to the Congregation on the 1st July, 1872. The next minister was the Rev. John Hall, who had been a Missionary in Australia, and was ordained on the 23rd September, 1872. He remained in charge till the 19th July, 1876, and was followed by the Rev. John Mc'Connell, who was installed on the 3rd October, 1876. During his ministry the attendance so increased that the Committee were obliged to seat the gallery and aisles, and the debt on the congregation was almost extinguished. After a pastorate of almost four years he resigned, and the Rev. John Kennedy Elliott was selected, and installed on the 28th September, 1880. He ministered for five years, during which the Manse was provided at a cost of almost £700. The Rev. James Mc'Granaghan (now Dr. Mc'Granaghan) became the pastor in 1885, leaving for Larne in 1887. In this year the Rev. Samuel Mc'Cune responded to the call, and during his oversight the Lecture Hall (which cost almost £300) was erected, the heating apparatus installed in the church at a cost of £102 18s 0d, and the Manse and land purchased from the Land Commission. He accepted a call to Oban, and on the 8th October, 1905, preached his farewell sermon. The Rev. George W. D. Rea, succeeded on the 14th January, 1906, and ministered till the 31st January, 1909, when he took leave of the congregation: going to Coleraine, where he is at present. The present minister, Rev. E. Ritchie, M.A., B.D., was installed on the 24th April, 1909, and during his time the praise portion of the service has been greatly improved by the introduction of a fine organ—the honorary organist being Mr. Colin A. Binnie. The Rev. Mr. Ritchie is assisted in the management of the affairs of the Church by the following Committee, viz.—Dr. Hunter, Mr. J. Walker, Mr. Hastings, Mr. H. McLernon, Mr. John Shiels, Mr. J. K. Craig, Mr. James Caldwell, Mr. David Wilson, Mr. John Mc'Cracken, Mr. William Ritchie, Mr. David Walls, and Mr. Robert Davison.

The first persons united in matrimony in this Church were Mr. Andrew Mc'Cornick, of Brookend, Arboe, and Miss Margaret Ann Davison, of Lisalbanagh, and the first child baptized was William Houston, son of Mr. Thomas Houston, of Aghagaskin. The oldest member of the congregation is Miss Rachel Seilly, Aghagaskin. The sextons were Hugh Johnston, Joseph Brown, and James Magill, who at present holds the office.

At the meeting of the last General Assembly a proposal was made to transfer Union Road from Tyrone Presbytery to that of Magherafelt, but it was abandoned owing to the opposition of the congregation.

THE METHODIST CHURCH.

According to the Rev. Randall C. Phillips, in his book on "Irish Methodism"—that form of religion was introduced into Ireland in the year 1747. A lay preacher from England named Thomas Williams, formed a society in Dublin of nearly three hundred members, and on John Wesley's first arrival he found this nucleus of the infant Church, and greatly admired their docile spirit. Wesley, it seems, preached in what had formerly been a Lutheran Church, to a crowded assembly, and spent two weeks of earnest labour among them before he returned to England. It is stated that two weeks later "Charles Wesley" arrived in Dublin and continued in the "country for more than half a year, but the 'advent of the poet of the new movement, so 'far from conducting to its peaceful development, aroused some of the fiercest elements "of the Celtic nature." He then left the metropolis and visited the inland counties. After his departure from Dublin a mob broke into the Chapel and left behind them traces of a faction fight. We are also told that on his journey he met with a few tokens for good that, no doubt, encouraged him in his work. The hymns and tunes of the Society were becoming popular, and he heard them whistled and sung while travelling through the country.

After his first itinerancy Methodism struck root. The following year John Wesley again visited Dublin, and found the disturbance had subsided in that city. He remained there for a short period, subsequently passing on through the Midland Counties preaching to vast crowds. He continued in Ireland for three months, forming new Societies, and appointing preachers to take the oversight of them. But the "path" of Methodism at this period was not very smooth, for scarcely had Charles Wesley returned to England than Cork became the scene of a virulent outbreak which almost threatened to undo the good achieved by the devoted itinerants. The members of the Society were assailed in the most brutal manner. Charles Wesley, who revisited Cork, was indicted before the Grand Jury as "a vagabond and a common disturber "of his Majesty's peace," but the preachers were vindicated fully in the law courts. Notwithstanding the opposition experienced by adherents, which evidently affected their English brethren, John Wesley, in an appeal to the English Conference, said: "Have "patience with Ireland and she will repay "you yet"—an appeal which has been fully justified, as Methodism began to spread, and now it is a power in the land.

Of when it was introduced into South Derry little is known. In June, 1788, Mr.

Wesley visited Kilrea, where he was cordially received by the rector of the parish, Rev. John Houghton. In his Journal (in which he recorded the visit), Wesley says: "The Church "in which it was first proposed is, as I found, "a mere heap of ruins, so I preached in the "New Meeting-house, a very large and com- "modious building. Abundance of people "flocked together. Some of them seemed not "a little affected, and all were seriously "attentive. Surely some will bring further "fruit." It is probable that Methodism was introduced into Magherafelt and the neighbouring towns and villages about the year 1769. Mr. Crookshank, in his history of Irish Methodism, tells us that about that period John Smyth and Thomas Halliday (two of Wesley's itinerants) travelled through the whole of the Counties of Londonderry, Donegal, and Antrim, and it is most likely that during this extended tour the Gospel was preached in Magherafelt, Castledawson, Bellaghy and other centres, and that Methodist Societies were soon afterwards formed. But the first direct information concerning early Methodism in South Derry, is given in the Rev. Matthew Langtree's "Biographical Narrative." It appears that when the Rev. Mr. Langtree was appointed to Coleraine in 1795, the circuit included a considerable portion of the Counties of Derry and Antrim, encircling the Antrim shores from Portrush to Glenarm, and stretching from thence to Ballymena, Portglenone, Bellaghy, Magherafelt and Limavady. In the same year the Rev. Adam Averell visited Magherafelt, but he found little enjoyment, the truth having long been preached with but little apparent effect.

In 1823, Magherafelt and several other centres in South Derry were joined to Ballymena and Maghera Mission, which embraced a considerable portion of the Counties of Antrim and Derry. In 1796 the Rev. Matthew Langtree, son., had charge of the Mission, and in his "Biographical Narrative" he states that on his first and second tour round the circuit he found that while a few societies were doing well, the general state of the country, in a spiritual sense, resembled the Valley of Dry Bones. In the neighbourhood of Kilrea he found that not less than eleven Societies had been lost and scattered in a few years, due, he alleged, to having been too hastily collected into Societies, and not having the advantage of judicious leaders. In other parts of South Derry, especially Castledawson, Magherafelt and Bellaghy, his labours were more successful, for he informs us that in Bellaghy "a "door of blessed usefulness had been opened,"

and the same happy result occurred in Castledawson and Magherafelt, where the first Mission School ever established in Ireland was founded. In Castledawson they were well supplied with preachers. A Mr. Saul, who was then a Revenue Officer, came to their assistance and proved a zealous labourer in the vineyard. So successful was the work there that two years later Mr. Langtree wrote that out of 300 persons who attended a service in the school-house, 200 returned to the Love Feast.

As to the work in Magherafelt, he says: "In Magherafelt we preached in the school-house—an inconvenient place in a narrow lane." It is not definitely known where this lane was situated, but it is conjectured that it was adjacent to the present Church. The schoolmaster, Mr. James Seymour, was the preacher. In 1826 Sir Robert Bateson granted the site for the building of a Chapel, and the present one was opened in 1828, and the Manse erected.

In Bellaghy a house was purchased and was fitted up to hold a large congregation, and on 12th November, 1826, it was opened for public worship. The congregations were large and much good accomplished. In 1827 a Mission School was also established there, which proved of great service to the cause in the village and neighbourhood. In 1836 Magherafelt was formed into a circuit, with two ministers, embracing a very extensive district of the country. Two years later the services in Castledawson were held in the house of Mr. James Morrow. In less than six months, through the instrumentality of Mr. Morrow, an attractive Chapel was built. In the erection of the Chapel an obelisk, which stood on the ground, was turned to good account, the base of it forming a porch, and the shaft a sort of spire, which was afterwards blown down. The opening services were conducted by the Rev. Henry Price and Wm. A. Derby. The following Sunday the pulpit was occupied by the Rev. R. J. Meyer with most edifying results. In addition to Mr. Morrow (who for many years took an active interest in the spiritual affairs of the congregation) there were Mr. Wisdom Kennedy, who generally led the singing, Mr. Matthew M'Lernon and Mr. James Derby, who were the mainstay of the cause. Mr. M'Lernon and Mr. Derby both left legacies for the support of the work on the circuit. Mr. Morrow, prior to his death, which took place in 1877, handed over £1,000 to the Wesleyan Foreign Missionary Society. He also bequeathed a considerable sum towards the support of the Methodist cause in Castledawson. It was, however, lost to the Society, as his death took place within three months of the making of his will. The late Alderman Carlisle, J.P., of Belfast, was a Castledawson man, and a member of the Castledawson Methodist Congregation, and built

the house in which Mr. Morrow lived and died. Amongst the many distinguished persons who were connected with the Methodist Church in Magherafelt, none held a more honoured place than the Rev. Henry Evans, D.D., of Howth. He is now the Senior Commissioner of National Education, and the representative of the Methodist Church on the National Educational Board. He resided at Ballyriff, near The Loop, where his boyhood was spent, and where his sister resides at present, and is also a valued member of the Church. Several of the other ministers associated with Magherafelt were the Rev. Robert Geale, who was recommended as a candidate for the ministry by the Magherafelt quarterly meeting in 1859, with Dr. Henry Evans; Rev. Gabriel Clarke, who spent his earlier years in Magherafelt; Rev. J. Tweedie Agnew, who resided with his parents for several years in Magherafelt, and was converted in Castledawson Chapel; and at a still later period, Rev. E. Whittaker, who resided in Magherafelt for seven years, and was appointed a local preacher by the quarterly meeting of the South Derry Mission.

In 1874 Cookstown was separated from Magherafelt, and the latter place became an appointment for one minister. The Rev. Charles Wood was the first Superintendent, and after a ministry of about two and a half years, he died on the 11th January, 1877, and was buried in St. Swithin's Church Cemetery. During the following fifteen years the ministers who laboured in the circuit were:—Revs. Robert Geale, Thomas Foster, James Edwards, John C. Irvine, George Barnes, John Wright, and Alexander Elliott.

Early in the third year of the latter clergyman's stay in Magherafelt, a request for Sunday Services was made to him by a number of families connected with the United Presbyterian Church in Knockcloughrim. Mr. Elliott accordingly arranged for a service to be held every Sunday afternoon in the Temperance Hall, Knockcloughrim, until the application would be considered by the District Meeting and Conference. At the following Conference the Rev. John Elliott was appointed to the Circuit, and arrangements were completed for the establishment of regular Sunday Services in Knockcloughrim. To facilitate those arrangements as well as to aid a general forward movement on the Circuit, additional grants were given from the Home Mission Fund, and eventually two evangelists were employed.

In addition to the Sunday Services in Knockcloughrim, a regular Sunday morning service was started in Magherafelt, and extra Sunday and week evening services were commenced in various portions of the Circuit. Some time afterwards a Mission Church, composed partly of iron, wood and stone, was

erected in Knockeloughrim, capable of seating about 200 persons. Extensive alterations and repairs were also carried out in the Church and Manse in Magherafelt, and much needed repairs were effected in the Churches in Maghera and Bellaghy.

At the Conference held in 1897 the name of the Circuit was changed from Magherafelt to South Derry Mission.

During Mr. Elliott's seven years ministry, most successful special services were conducted by Miss Wakefield (a member of the Society of Friends) in the several chapels on the Mission, which were largely attended.

The Rev. W. J. Clayton succeeded Mr. Elliott in 1901, and an assistant, Rev. I. H. Munro, was also appointed to take the place of the two evangelists.

In 1903 the Rev. Samuel Allen was appointed to succeed Mr. Clayton, with the Rev. W. J. Rooney as his colleague.

In November, 1903, successful Mission Services were conducted by the Rev. James Kirkwood in Magherafelt, and two months later a Mission was held in Knockeloughrim by Mrs. Dowling, Belfast. During Mr. Allen's stay, all the trust property on the Mission was put into a thorough state of repair, which included the erection of two new windows in the front gable of the Church in Magherafelt. Altogether a sum of about £205 was expended on the Church and Manse, and on the Churches in Castledawson, Knockeloughrim, Bellaghy and Maghera, and the procuring new organs for Magherafelt and Knockeloughrim Churches. The Church in Castledawson was renovated at the sole expense of the late Mr. W. J. Derby, J.P., Aughrim House, who was then Senior Circuit Steward, and who took a very practical and earnest interest in the cause of Methodism, and his death was greatly deplored—not only by his co-religionists—but also by the community generally.

To liquidate the debt a bazaar was held in the Town Hall, Magherafelt, in June, 1904, which was opened by Mr. John Gordon, K.C., M.P., for South Derry, and a substantial sum was realised.

In October, 1903, the Church in Maghera, which had been closed for a considerable period, was re-opened for a fortnightly week evening service, and six months later a regular Sunday evening service was commenced. In carrying out the work of the Mission, the Rev. Mr. Allen was admirably supported by Mrs. Allen, who conducted the musical portion of the services. She was a fine musician and a tactful leader of a choir, and on several occasions she willingly assisted other churches, for which she received their grateful thanks.

The Rev. Mr. Allen was succeeded by the Rev. Thomas Rutherford, and he, in turn, has been followed by Rev. W. E. Maguire. During his ministry street preaching was inaugurated, and principally on fair days (throughout the Mission) he was always to be found boldly proclaiming Christ and Him crucified. He was deservedly popular—a remark which applies with equal force to his amiable wife—who not only conducted the musical portion of the services, and trained the choir, but was ever ready to assist any worthy musical undertaking by her presence and help. His assistant was Rev. J. J. Beacon, and he succeeded the Rev. T. Findlow. The previous assistants were Revs. H. G. Martin, C. F. Maguire, T. J. M'Cord, E. White, J. Johnston, H. Thompson, and W. H. Green. The present superintendent is Rev. W. T. Brownlee, and his assistant is Rev. T. J. Burchill.

In carrying on the work of the Mission, the Superintendent and his Assistant require the encouragement and support of the Circuit Stewards, and Mr. C. W. Henry, as senior, and Mr. George Garvin, junior Stewards respectively, assist them in every possible way, and are ideal stewards. As regards the cause at Knockeloughrim, it owes much to the large heartedness and energy of the Shiels family. The late Mr. William Shiels, who was Chapel Steward and Sunday School Superintendent, did much to further the Methodist religion in that district, and his son, Wm. George Shiels, is faithfully following in his footsteps. Mr. Joseph Montgomery has taken up the position of Superintendent of the Sunday School, and is a worthy successor to Mr. Shiels. The Rev. T. J. Burchill is the Sunday School Superintendent, and Mr. R. K. Burnside, Chapel Steward in Magherafelt, Mr. W. Pickering, Chapel Steward in Castledawson, and Mr. Vance in Bellaghy. The Sexton in Magherafelt is Mr. John Devlin.

The reference to the Methodist Church would not be complete without mentioning Mr. Abraham McKnight, now deceased, who was the local senior preacher. Mr. McKnight commenced to preach when eighteen years of age, and was a local preacher of over fifty years standing, and his able ministry of the Word was much appreciated by the different congregations.

The cause of Methodism has undoubtedly grown, and the congregation in Magherafelt are to be congratulated on their very well equipped and neat Church, which some years ago was adorned by two stained glass windows, the gift of Mr. W. H. Millar, of New York, in memory of his mother. Mr. Millar is brother to Mrs. William Bell, of King Street, Magherafelt, who has always evinced a deep interest in the Church in Magherafelt.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The site occupied by the first Roman Catholic Place of Worship in or around Magherafelt, is not now locally known. It would seem that some time prior to 1831 there was a Chapel in existence situated on the road leading to Castledawson, about the position at present occupied by the lower gate on the property of the late Mr. R. M'Guckin, solicitor. When it was erected, there is no definite information, but it is said that it at least dated from the year 1700. Prior to that period, in order to carry out the principles of their religion, the Roman Catholics met at various places, and their religious rites were generally performed at what is commonly known as "Mass or Altar Stones." According to the information of Mr. Thomas Fagan, who visited the district in 1836, on behalf of the Government, a stone, resembling a cross, was found in the holding of John Redfern, Mullaghboy, about the year 1805, at a large hawthorn bush where, it was said, Roman Catholic Worship had been performed.

A deputation of the Salters' Company came over to inspect the Estate, in the year 1849, prior to taking it over into their own hands. They visited the Chapel and made the following report:—"The Chapel (Catholic) is situated in Aghagaskin, about a mile from Magherafelt. It was erected 'in the year 1831 by voluntary subscriptions 'of the congregation, together with contributions from Protestants of both denominations in the parish and vicinity (£110 'being presented by the Marquis of Londonderry and Sir Robert Bateson), and 'collections made in several places in Ireland 'and Scotland—total expense, £500. The 'deputation visited the building, which is a 'plain unadorned structure, much out of 'repair, its earthen floor is worn into holes, 'and its general aspect indicated a congregation in confined circumstances. A burial 'ground is attached to the Chapel. Mass is 'celebrated twice on each Sunday—at ten 'and twelve in the morning; but there is no 'week day Mass nor Vespers. The Rev. 'John Quinn is the Parish Priest of Magherafelt, and the Rev. John M'Donnell is the 'Coadjutor (Assistant) Priest. There is a 'Sunday School in the Chapel. The deputation had many opportunities of meeting 'with the Rev. John Quinn, whose urbanity, 'frankness and general deportment have 'gained for him the goodwill of the population of the neighbourhood of all denominations." Regarding the Sunday School, the report states that there were 85 males and 100 females, and a note is added that the Rev. John Quinn stated that from deaths,

emigration, want of food and clothing, the members had fallen off during the last five years.

According to a Parliamentary return made in 1766, there were in the Parish 625 families, of which 203 were Roman Catholics. There was then no Roman Catholic Priest resident in the Parish, the Priests from Ballinderry and The Loop alternately doing duty. So far as can be ascertained, the Rev. John Quinn was the first resident Priest, and his assistant lodged in the house at present occupied by Mr. William Davison, Killyneec. Father Quinn came to the parish about the year 1822, and died in 1862, having ministered for at least forty years. He lodged in Protestant houses in Magherafelt, the principal Catholics not being in a position to offer him suitable apartments. It was during his ministry that the present site on which the Parochial House stands was secured. It is told that the house, the property of a Protestant, was said to be haunted, and as frequent attempts at letting it were unavailing, Father Quinn was approached by the owner, who stated that if the offending spirit was banished he would give the ground for a Parochial House. Father Quinn exorcised the house; the ghost disappeared, and the site was secured.

Father Quinn was succeeded by the Rev. Patrick Campbell, P.P., who was a man of fine educational attainments, and was very much beloved by his people. He was appointed co-manager with the then Rector of Magherafelt, of Drumrainey School, but owing to there not being any Catholic children in attendance, he subsequently resigned the position. During the period he acted as manager, it is said, that one day he was accosted in the School by a little Presbyterian girl, who said:—

"Campbell, thou art so meek and mild,
And might'st be guided by a child."

He died in 1867, and in the Chapel there is a marble tablet erected to his memory, and it contains the following inscription:—

IN MEMORIAM.

Erected A.D. 1905, by the Priests and People of Magherafelt, to the memory of the late Rev. Patrick Campbell, P.P., who was the good Pastor of Magherafelt and Ardrea North, from 1862 to 1867.

R.I.P.

"Qui ad Justitiam Erudiant Multos
Fulgebunt Quasi Stellae in Perpetuas
Alternitates."—Dan., 12—3.

Father Campbell was succeeded by the Rev. P. Canon Donnelly. The Chapel has been very much improved during Pastorate of the Very Rev. J. Canon Quinn, P.P.—£203 8s 4d having been expended on it during the years 1903 and 1905. It is said to have been rebuilt three times, and is now in excellent condition and repair. It bears the following inscription:—

HIC DOMUS DEI EST,
ET PORTA COELI, ET
VOCABITUR AULA
DEI

A.D. 1831
REV. J. I. QUINN.

The graveyard has also received attention from Canon Quinn—£304 2s 4d having been expended in the years 1907 and 1910—in making additions to it, deep draining it, and building the boundary wall. The property is now in splendid order and a credit to the parishioners.

One of the aims of the Very Rev. Canon Donnelly, on his appointment as Parish Priest, was to have a Catholic Church erected in the town of Magherafelt. To this end he worked most assiduously, never allowing any obstacle, no matter how great, to swerve him from the object which was so dear to his heart. The 'Salters' Company was approached, but the application was postponed. However, Canon Donnelly was not to be denied, and the late Dr. Francis Auterson, J.P., of Rainey Street, obtained an introduction to the Court of Assistants of the Salters' Company and, accompanied by Canon Donnelly, visited the offices in St. Swithin's Lane, with such success that the Company requested to be furnished with a working plan and specification of the proposed Church. These were submitted and approved, and the Company decided that a suitable site should be given. Subsequently the present site was obtained free for ever, the Company giving, in addition, a donation of £1,000, which was specially earmarked towards the building of the tower. No time was lost in completing the arrangements, and the Foundation Stone was laid in September, 1878. Canon Donnelly, supported, as he was by the whole-hearted devotion of his Parishioners and a large number of friends saw the consummation of his labours on the Sunday, the 10th September, 1882, when the Church was solemnly dedicated by the then Primate of Armagh, Archbishop McGettigan, the sermon being preached by his Eminence Cardinal Logue, then Bishop of Raphoe. The Rev. Dr. Donnelly, Bishop of Clogher, sang High Mass, and the musical portion of the service was beautifully rendered by the Armagh Cathedral Choir, which was specially brought over for the occasion. The attendance at the service was very large, special

trains bringing large numbers from all the principal towns in Derry, Tyrone and Armagh.

The Church, admittedly one of the finest in Ireland, was built by Messrs. McClelland, Derry, to the specification of that eminent firm of architects, Messrs. Byrne and O'Neill, of Dublin and Belfast, and cost £16,000. The stone was obtained from Carland Quarries, and the ten polished marble Pillars were obtained from Peterhead Quarries, Aberdeen. The collection taken at the service amounted to £1,600. Such was the popularity of Canon Donnelly, and so responsive were all classes to his appeals, that the Church, which is called "The Church of Our Lady of the Assumption," was opened practically free of debt. The late Mr. James Harbison (father of Mr. John Harbison, solicitor, was, it is said, the largest donor, subscribing £200, and among other generous contributors were Messrs. Charles McKenna, John Donaghy, Richard Donnelly, James McKee, and Dr. Auterson.

The following account of the opening of the new church appeared in the "Belfast Morning News" of September 11, 1882:—

"Yesterday, in presence of large crowds of the faithful from different points of our Northern Province, one of the most imposing ceremonies in connection with religion in the Catholic Church was performed at Magherafelt. The pomp and ceremony attendant upon the performance of this great religious fête excited, as ceremonies of a similar kind ever have excited in Ireland, the deep and glowing fervour of the people. It was the design, knowing that the ceremonies would be of a protracted kind, to commence at half-past eleven o'clock, but the special excursion train from Belfast, not having arrived until considerably later, it was deemed expedient to delay for a short time the grand work of the day. It may be deemed seasonable to state that this readiness on the part of those who were immediately in charge of everything in connection with the dedication was occasioned by a desire to meet the convenience of the very large numbers, who arrived, not alone by the Belfast excursion train, but also the large and influential throng that came from the Primatial City.

The blessing of the church was commenced by the usual detour of the edifice, made by the Lord Primate, in company with the other prelates, while the procession was brought up by large bodies of priests and acolytes. There is nothing new in a religious performance of this kind, except it be those who actually take part in it, and on this account we do not deem it necessary to present in anything like a detailed way the various movements of priests and prelates—for everything that can

command attention, and that is worthy of close thought, not alone in regard to the new church at Magherafelt, but concerning all Catholic churches wherever erected, is to be found in the magnificent sermon by the Most Rev. Dr. Logue. Canon Donnelly deserves great credit for the efforts he has made, and it is only justice to state that the strong support he received, not alone from Catholics, but from others of different persuasions, is a proof of the growing influence of Catholicity in the north, and of the development of a spirit of toleration and good fellowship among all classes and creeds.

High Mass commenced at half-past twelve, the Most Rev. Dr. Donnelly, Lord Bishop of Clogher, being the celebrant, assisted by the Rev. T. Larkin, P.P.; Rev. H. M'Oscar, C.C., deacon; Rev. Father Morris, sub-deacon, and Rev. Canon Coyne and Rev. John M'Kenna, masters of ceremonies.

Amongst those present were—Most Rev. Dr. McGettigan, Lord Primate; Most Rev. Dr. Dorrigan, Lord Bishop of Down and Connor; Most Rev. Dr. Logue, Lord Bishop of Raphoe; Most Rev. Dr. Donnelly, Lord Bishop of Clogher; Monsignor Stephens, Killybegs; Very Rev. Canon Donnelly, P.P., Magherafelt; Very Rev. Canon Hughes, P.P., Lordship; Very Rev. Canon Coyne, P.P., Moy; Very Rev. Canon P. J. Byrne, P.P., Cookstown; Very Rev. H. Harbison, C.S.S.R., Dundalk; Very Rev. Patrick Boyle, President, Seminary, Armagh; Very Rev. Dr. Hassan, President, Seminary, Derry; Very Rev. Father Grue, S.M., Marist College, Dundalk; Rev. C. Clarke, C.C., Bellaghy; Rev. P. J. Hanuill, P.P., Portlone; Rev. John M'Graham, P.P., Randalstown; Rev. B. Murphy, P.P., Carrickmore; Rev. Edward Gillan, C.C., Maghera; Rev. F. Larkin, P.P., Money-more; Rev. Father M'Kenna, C.C., Longfield; Rev. B. M'Gurk, P.P., Lavey; Rev. James Kennedy, C.C., Duncane; Rev. J. J. M'Cartan, P.P., Donaghmore; Rev. B. Lavery, P.P., Coagh; Rev. F. M'Elvogue, C.C., Ardboe; Rev. P. Farrelly, Adm., St. Matthew's, Belfast; Rev. J. M'Arld, C.C., St. Malachy's, do.; Rev. R. Smyth, C.C., St. Malachy's, do.; Rev. James Mullen, C.C., Magherafelt; Rev. James M'Fadden, P.P., Cloughanally; Rev. John Quinn, C.C., Cullyhanna; Rev. J. M'Donnell, C.C., Duncane; Rev. Peter M'Nance, C.C., Granaghlan; Rev. P. Conlan, C.C., Money-more; Rev. P. Bradley, P.P., Desertmartin; Rev. Hugh M'Oscar, Adm., Armagh; Rev. P. M'Geeney, C.C., do.; etc., etc., etc.

[Here follows sermon, not copied, by Dr. Logue.]

A collection was then taken up, the following gentlemen assisting:—Mr. Wm. Ross,

J.P., Dunlewy House, Donegal; Surgeon-Major Lavery, J.P., Armagh; Mr. James T. M'Kenna, J.P., Draperstown; Mr. James Harbison, J.P., Magherafelt; Dr. Vesey, Magherafelt; Sub-Inspector Winder, Magherafelt; Dr. Antterson, Magherafelt; Dr. Antterson, Cookstown; Messrs. John Harbison, solicitor, Magherafelt; Thomas Brown, do.; W. J. Reynolds, solicitor, Dungannon; Joseph Longluey, solicitor, Derry; James Murphy, V.S., Armagh; John Doris, V.S., Cookstown; J. Hughes, Armagh; — Scott, Magherafelt; James Larkin, Bellaghy; Francis O'Hanlon, Cookstown; J. Leonard, Grange; J. Molloy, Cookstown; P. Dempsey, Belfast; C. Hagan, Dungannon; R. Davidson, Bellaghy; N. M'Guckian, Ballylifford; — Graham (Graham and Keegan's) G. Neeson, Ballymena; — Duffin, Moneyglass; J. Keenan, P.L.G.; John Grew, Portadown; J. M'Kendry, P.L.G.; C. M'Kenna, do.; C. J. Scullin, Magherafelt; F. Ferran, do.; L. Ferran, do.; J. Kilree, Magherafelt; N. Mulholland, Slackpark; T. S. Taylor, Magherafelt; James Harbison, sen., do.; T. Darby, do.; P. M'Caffrey, J.P., Armagh; T. T. Brannigan, Belfast; J. Brown, Magherafelt; J. Henry, Draperstown; — M'Kenna, Maghera; James Grew, Portadown; J. Dowd, Belfast; H. Kennedy, Moneynick; — Flynn, Glasgow; J. Barklie, Randalstown; T. M'Atamney, Ballymena; John Dignan, Armagh; J. Mullan, Cookstown; R. Donnelly, Magherafelt; J. M'Menanin, Magherafelt; J. Moran, do.; J. Kelly, Cookstown; James Johnston, Belfast; James Shivers, Brough; Louis Walsh, Maghera; T. M'Sherry, Cookstown; J. Boden, Magherafelt; J. Neill, Belfast; — M'Clelland, Derry; J. Devlin, Cookstown; James Wynne, Armagh; J. Walker, Magherafelt; S. Porter, Magherafelt; John Walsh, Hotel, do.; — Leeper, Cookstown; J. M'Nance, Magherafelt; — Granger, railway contractor, do.; J. Rickard, Cookstown; Charles Gallen, Belfast; P. Campbell, Keady; J. Mullan, Dungannon; J. Sands, Magherafelt; — Field, Maghera; J. Dorothy, Magherafelt; Samuel Porter, do.; John Donaghy, do., etc.

A word may be given in regard to the design of the church and the style of the architecture. The design of the church comprises nave and aisles, two side chapels, and an apsidal sanctuary. The tower is at the south-west angle, and the sacristies on the north side. The dimensions are 112 feet in length, 58 feet in width, 67 feet in height to the cross on the western gable of the nave, and 140 feet to the apex of the spire. Facing the street is the principal entrance in the west end. It is reached by an ascent of three flights of wide stone steps. The entrance door is of three orders of mouldings, the

outer order shafted. Over the door and separated from it by a curved string course, is a niche containing a statue of our Lady, the work of Mr. Earley, of Dublin, and on each side a two-light traceried window; over the niche is a circular window, the whole enclosed by a label moulding. A second entrance in the tower similar to the main doorway gives access to the south aisle. The aisle walls are divided into bays by buttresses, and pierced by coupled lancets in each bay. The clorestory is pierced by circular windows, foliated alternately cinquefoil and sextfoil; the apse is lighted by two light traceried windows. Internally the building is light-some and well proportioned; the pillars are polished granite, the arches moulded of stone, and the ceilings are of wood and pannelled, the ribs springing from stone corbels carved, and representing the heads of saints; the ceilings of the chapels are grained. At the western end is an organ-gallery, having a richly moulded and carved front. The floor is seated with open benches of suitable design of high merit, the passages being laid with pattern tiles. The sanctuary and chapels are enclosed by a carved oak railing, the floor being laid with encaustic tiles. In the centre of each of the nave arches stands a brass floriated gas standard, made by Messrs. Patterson, of Belfast, from special Gothic designs; they form a striking feature in the interior of the church, highly creditable to the firm by which they were executed. Advantage has been taken of the declivity in the ground to form a heating chamber at the western end of the church. The building is in the middle pointed style of architecture. It was designed by Messrs. O'Neill and Byrne, of Belfast and Dublin, architects, under whom it was partially carried out; and completed under the superintendence of Messrs. O'Neill and McCarthy, of Belfast and Dublin. The contractor for the building and fittings, and furniture, was Mr. McClelland, Derry; for the decorations, Early and Powells, of Dublin; Mr. J. Earley executed the carving. The enclosing walls and laying out the terraced grounds was executed by Mr. Patrick Donnelly, of Magherafelt, and the gates and gothic railings by Messrs. Riddell Limited, Belfast.

After Mass, the Very Rev. Canon Donnelly announced that the sum received on this occasion amounted to £1,600 in all, including in round numbers, nearly £1,600 as the proceeds of the collection, £100 of ticket money, and close upon £600 received previous to the dedication. Father Donnelly then made a well-deserved and complimentary reference to the Lord Primate for his zeal and well-known energy in all Catholic undertakings; to the scholarly and distinguished preacher, Dr. Logue; to the choir; and to the large numbers of kind friends, including those who

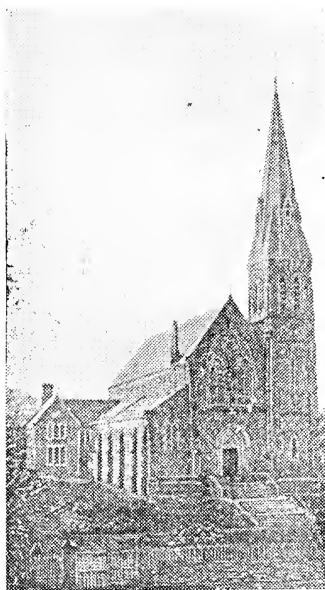
were not Catholics, who devoted themselves in a practical and really magnificent way to help to clear off the heavy debt that remained on the building. The rev. gentleman also thanked the Salters' Company, who were, he said, good enough to grant the site at a nominal rent, with a lease in perpetuity, and who also subscribed £1,000 towards the building fund.

A very select programme of sacred music was performed by the Armagh Catholic Cathedral Choir.

After the ceremony, an excellent luncheon was served in Mr. Walshe's Hotel, to a large number, chiefly visitors who came from a distance."

Canon Donnelly died on the 30th January, 1893, and was laid to rest underneath the Sanctuary, close to the beautiful Marble Altar of the Blessed Virgin which, with the stained glass window above it, was erected at his personal expense. And in order that his memory might be perpetuated, the parishioners erected a handsome Marble Pulpit about the year 1896. It has seven panels and six niches, and on the panels are exquisitely carved figures, emblematic of the unbroken succession of the divine mission from Moses down to St. Patrick—the niches being filled with figures representing Irish Saints. The Architect was Mr. J. J. McDonnell, J.P., Belfast.

The Very Rev. Henry Canon McNece, who was administrator in Armagh Cathedral, succeeded Canon Donnelly, and, in addition to having the Memorial Pulpit to the memory of Canon Donnelly erected, he considered there was something wanting to complete the Church, and that something was a Bell. He set to work, and in a comparatively short time a bell, worthy of the Church and congregation, was secured. The following account of the inception of the project, and the arrival of the Bell, is taken from the IRISH NEWS of the 10th March, 1898, and is from the pen of Mr. J. I. Donaghy, B.A., R.U.I., solicitor, Tynagort, Belfast, the popular Registrar of the County Court in Londonderry, whose family have been foremost in all matters concerning Catholicity, especially in their native district:—"The New Bell for the Church of 'Our Lady of the Assumption, Magherafelt. 'There is a pretty general and widespread 'feeling nowadays that a Catholic Church 'is never complete until it has got its bell, 'and no one will deny but that there are 'good grounds for this belief. It matters 'not that outside the sacred edifice—instant 'with every architectural grace and 'beauty—points with tapering spire to 'Heaven—that within the lofty nave and 'spacious aisles, the marble pillars and 'beautiful Stations of the Cross, and the



NEW CATHOLIC CHURCH.
Dedicated on 10th September, 1882, by
Archbishop M'Gettigan, Primate of
Armagh.



LATE VERY
REV. PATK. CANON DONNELLY, P.P.



LATE VERY
REV. HENRY CANON M'NEECE, P.P.



VERY REV. JOHN CANON QUINN, P.P.

"chastely rich decorations generally, are all "that the most fastidious could desire; there "still remains a something wanting to give "expression and vitality to the whole—to, "so to speak, infuse a soul into it, and pro- "claim aloud its existence, and that some- "thing is assuredly—a bell. The unswerving "tenacity with which Irishmen have through "all ages clung to the Faith of their fore- "fathers, needs no comment; and their "inherent love of music is known all the "world over. And surely the two are "happily blended in the tuneful prayer and "liquid melody of the 'church-going bell,' "whose measured strokes reverberate with "pleasing cadence in the ears of Irish "Catholics, whether among the hills and "valleys of the old country at home, or amid "the cities and plains of that greater Ire- "land beyond the sea, built up and sustained "by the efforts of the many Irishmen who "dwell unwilling exiles in the new world. "It is but a few months ago since the Very "Rev. Canon M'Neece—the deservedly "popular and highly esteemed parish priest "of Magherafelt—suggested that a suitable "bell should be procured for the Church of "Our Lady of the Assumption, and right "nobly did his faithful parishioners respond "to the call of their devoted pastor. From "the first moment the matter was mentioned, "the project was received with the greatest "enthusiasm. A Committee was imme- "diately formed—over one-third of the "entire cost was subscribed at the first "meeting, and since then parishioners of all "classes have vied with each other in pouring "in their generous and voluntary sub- "scriptions. Canon M'Neece, with "characteristic zeal and energy, at once "entered into negotiations with Mr. Byrne, "of the Fountain Head Bell Foundry, "Dublin, with the satisfactory result that in "a few days a magnificent bell, weighing "almost two tons, arrived in due course at "Magherafelt Railway Station. From "thence it was conveyed to the Catholic "Church under the personal supervision of "Mr. Byrne's foreman, and escorted by an "enthusiastic crowd of close upon three "hundred parishioners, all anxious to assist "in the good work. Arrived, on the spot, "willing hands soon placed it in position, "just outside the porch at the tower door, "where it remained over night, silently "waiting, like some primeval Catechumen "of old for admission to within the sacred "precincts of the Church. It would be out- "side the compass of this brief notice to enter "into any descriptive details of the bell. "These are reserved for another occasion. "Suffice to say that it is a magnificent "specimen of the bell-founder's art—perfect "in every respect—and that it will be "mounted on the 'patent rotary iron and "steel mountings,' of which Mr. Byrne "makes a speciality. The bell will be

"solemnly blessed by his Eminence Cardinal "Logue, and High Mass will be celebrated "(Coram Pontifice) on next Sunday at 11 "o'clock. When we add that the sermon on "the occasion will be preached by the Rev. "John Quinn, Adm., Armagh, whose repu- "tation as an eloquent preacher is already "firmly established. We feel that enough "has been said to show that the occasion "will be a memorable one, and one which "should not be missed by any who can "possibly attend. It should perhaps be "mentioned that there will not be any "collection taken up, and that the tickets for "admission are marked at the extremely "moderate figures of 2s 6d and 1s each, with "a limited number of specially reserved "places at 6s.. It is safe to predict that an "immense concourse will assemble at the "Church of Our Lady of the Assumption on "Sunday, to listen to the eloquent discourse "of the talented preacher, and to co-operate "with Ireland's Cardinal-Primate in doing "honour to the great occasion. Those who "do so will have every reason to congratulate "themselves on having made the necessary "effort to be present. They will learn the "luxury of doing good, and they will "experience the exquisite feelings so beauti- "fully described by one of our sweetest Irish "poets, when:—

— tolled with a rapid vibration, with a
melody silvery and strong;
The bell from the sound-shaken belfry shall
ring out its first maiden song;
Not now for the dead or the living, or the
triumphs of peace or of strife;
But a quick, joyous outburst of jubilee, full
of its newly-felt life.
Rapid, more rapid, the clapper rebounds from
the round of the bell—
Far and more far through the valley the
intertwined melodies swell—
Quivering and broken the atmosphere
trembles and twinkles around,
Like the eyes and the hearts of the hearers,
that glisten and beat to the sound."

The ceremony of blessing the new Bell took place on Saturday, 12th March, 1898. The "Daily Nation" of March 14, gives an interesting account of the proceedings, from which we learn that his Eminence Cardinal Logue arrived in Magherafelt at a quarter past eleven o'clock, a.m., on the 12th, accompanied by the Rev. E. MacAleavey, C.C., Cookstown. He was met at the Railway Station by the Very Rev. Canon M'Neece, P.P., Magherafelt, and the Rev. Thomas M'Williams, C.C. His Eminence at once proceeded to the Church and solemnly blessed the bell, which was being erected with all the prayers and ceremonies prescribed in the pontifical, in presence of a very large congregation. He was assisted by the clergymen already named, and by the

Rev. Hugh M'Cooley, P.P., Ballinderry, and the Rev. J. A. M'Oscar. The Bell has inscribed on it:—

"SUM SIGNUM BEATÆ MARIAE IN
"COELUM ASSUMPTAE SONANS IN
NOMINE CHRISTI."

It cost about £150, every penny of which was spontaneously subscribed by the parishioners.

At the conclusion of the sacred function his Eminence, accompanied by Canon M'Neece, drove away to visit the new Schools then recently erected in the Newbridge district of Magherafelt Parish. The Schools were situated about a mile from the Church of St. Trea, which had been dedicated in 1897, and afford accommodation for 250 male and female children. The Schools were erected at a cost of about £1,500, on a site kindly granted by the landlord, Mr. A. D. Gaussen, Ballyronan, and were a splendid monument to the indefatigable zeal and energy of the rev. pastor, Very Rev. Canon M'Neece, P.P., who had achieved much for the cause of religion and education since he took charge of the parish.

His Eminence, who was met by a vast concourse of the inhabitants of the district, headed by the Rev. Thomas Rogers, C.C., made a minute inspection of the Schools, and expressed himself highly pleased with them in every respect. Addressing the people assembled, he referred to a visit he paid to that district about a year previous, when he found the old School, which was to be replaced by the new buildings, in such a dilapidated condition that it did not even afford protection to the children from the snow and the rain. He pointed out that the people had now educational facilities within their reach, which their forefathers never had, and earnestly exhorted them to take advantage of those facilities by sending their children regularly to School. The multitude reverently kneeling received the blessing of his Eminence, who then returned to the residence of Canon M'Neece.

The following day, Sunday, at 11 o'clock. High Mass—*coram pontifice*—was celebrated in the Church in Magherafelt, which was filled with a devout congregation—many of whom came from a distance for the inauguration of the New Bell. His Eminence the Cardinal Primate presided. The Celebrant was the Rev. Thomas Rogers, C.C., Magherafelt, the Rev. Alex. M'Peake, C.C., Moneymore, was deacon; Rev. N. Speer, C.C., Ballinderry, sub-deacon, and the Rev. J. A. M'Oscar, late of Maynooth College, master of ceremonies. The assistants at the throne were the Very Rev. Thomas Canon Rice, P.P., Cookstown, and the Very Rev.

Canon Henry M'Neece, P.P., Magherafelt. The other clergy present were the Very Rev. Charles Quinn, P.P., V.F., Dunane; Rev. Thomas M'Williams, C.C., Magherafelt; Rev. Peter M'Namee, P.P., Bellaghy; Rev. Francis M'Geown, Bellaghy; Rev. Thomas Larkin, P.P., Moneymore; Rev. Peter Kearney, Bellaghy; Rev. Peter M'Mullan, P.P., Coagh; Rev. Father M'Kee, C.C., Lissan, and Rev. Wm. O'Connell, C.C., Dunane.

Amongst the laity present were Messrs. F. M'Glade, Adelaide Park, Belfast; L. Byrne, Land Commissioner; James Grant, Toomebridge; J. O'Connell, National School Inspector, Castledawson; Louis Walsh, Maghera; Michael M'Kenna, Greenisland House, Creagh; James Harbison, J.P., Magherafelt; John Harbison, solicitor, do.; Wm. Harbison, J.P., do.; Dr. F. Anterson, J.P., do.; James Kilroe, J.P., do.; Felix Ferran, J.P., do.; Joseph I. Donaghy, B.A., solicitor, do.; Robert M'Guckin, solicitor, do.; John M'Namee, do.; John Walsh (Hotel), do.; Lawrence Higgins, J.P., do.; John H. Donaghy, do.; R. M'Nicholl, do.; Head-Constable Timony, John Glenane, Patrick Fullen, Patrick Keenan, Samuel Kelly, Peter M'Kenna, Joseph M'Menamin, Thomas Larkin, etc., etc.

The music of the Mass, which was very creditably performed by the parochial Choir, under the able conductorship of Mr. M. J. O'Neill, consisted of Leonard's Kyrie in E. flat; Credo, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei; Liscombe's Tantum Ergo, and Beethoven's O Salutaris. The Soloists were Miss Lizzie M'Mullen and Miss Kate O'Neill (sopranos), Mr. John M'Mullan (tenor), and Mr. Peter O'Kane (baritone.)

The visitors were greatly impressed with the rare architectural proportions and beauty of the Church, its handsome altars and pulpits, its chaste and artistic decorations, its commodious furniture and general equipments.

An eloquent and impressive sermon was preached by the Rev. John Quinn, Adm., Armagh—now the Rev. John Canon Quinn, P.P., the popular pastor of the Parishes of Magherafelt and Ardtrea North—who took for his text the Gospel for the day—Luke, 11th chap., 14th to 28th verses. His Eminence the Cardinal gave Benediction in the evening.

The tone of the Bell (which is heard at the furthest extremity of the parish) is very soft and mellow, the resonance continuing for a considerable time after the stroke. And the welcome notes, rich mellow, musical, floating out calmly for the first time on the clear, crisp morning air, gladdened the

hearts of the worthy Catholics of Magherafelt—for with that addition, their magnificent Church, of which they feel justly proud, may be said to be quite completed and fully equipped.

Canon M'Neece died in 1901, and was succeeded by Rev. J. Canon Quinn, who has been most indefatigable for the welfare of the Church and people. In 1904 he succeeded in having put in stained glass windows, by Mayer and Co., Munich, at a cost of £370, which are considered masterpieces of beauty. In 1907 a beautiful new Marble Altar was erected and dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It was supplied by Signor Luigi Tommasi, Carara, Italy, at a cost of £419 2s 9d, the architects being Ashlane and Coleman, Dublin. The system of heating the Church by hot air was found unsatisfactory, and it has been replaced by Musgrave and Cos. low pressure water system with radiators, at a cost of £383 2s 0d, the gift of Mr. Lawrence Higgins, J.P. Three new Cathedral lamps (similar to those at Armagh Cathedral) have been supplied at a cost of £48 and, in addition, £200 has been spent on minor repairs both inside and outside.

Three handsome windows were erected in 1898 by Mr. William M'Kenna, of Clones, in memory of Charles M'Kenna and Mary his wife, and their children.

The Church is now nearly replete in every respect. It only wants a High Altar and an organ, and the grounds are in excellent condition.

In 1913 a Curate Residence was erected, on the Aughrim Road, which supplied a long felt want. It is a most substantial building, and is equipped with every conceivable convenience.

The Curates who officiated in the new Church were Revs. J. Mulllan, J. Quinn, P. J. O'Callaghan, T. M'Williams, T. Rogers, John O'Brien, Henry Callan, and John Beck, and the present Curates, P. Moore and J. Caraher.

The Organist and Choir Master is Mr. Matthew J. O'Neill, N.T., in which office he has been eminently successful, the music on all occasions being very efficiently and tunelessly rendered, for which he has repeatedly been complimented.

The other Catholic Church in connection with Magherafelt is that of St. Trea, situated at Newbridge. There is a legend that St. Patrick crossed Toome Ford and visited the district to preach the Gospel. When he arrived he found two brothers lords of the territory. The older brother refused him a

plot for his church, but the younger one received him with kindness and placed land at his disposal, on which, it is said, St. Patrick built seven churches between the mountain and the lake. He spent forty days around Newbridge, and was so pleased with the district that he meditated making it his own residence. He blessed the generous chieftain and his wife, and the child that was to be born to them. After a lapse of about twenty years he returned to the district to find the maiden who had been born to the chieftain. She received her religious profession, and from heaven there dropped down a veil on her face, covering her eyes and her features. St. Patrick wished to raise the veil, but she was not willing, and he left it as it was, so that no man beheld her dove-like eyes or the bloom of her cheeks from that day till the day of her death. That maiden was St. Trea, for whom St. Patrick built the church, and which gave the name of that parish. How long that church remained or how many churches were re-erected on that place is not definitely known. The present church of St. Trea was dedicated about the latter end of September or beginning of October, 1896, by his Eminence Cardinal Logue. The then existing church was altered by the addition of two transepts, sacristy, and apse, which made it almost a new edifice, with very much larger seating accommodation, having a capacity for holding one thousand people. It is cruciform in plan, and consists of nave, transepts, and semi-octagonal apse, its total length being 118 feet, across transepts 74 feet wide, and across nave 34 feet. The principal entrance is by a projecting porch at the west end, from which the staircase to the gallery is approached, and the transepts have each a separate entrance. The gallery is built to seat over one hundred, and in it the choir is placed. At the north end of the sanctuary is a commodious sacristy fitted with every requisite. The nave is lighted by two light mullioned and traceried windows, each transept by three lancet lights, and the sanctuary by six two-light windows, and all glazed with a pretty pattern of lead lights of various coloured glass. The west gable is pierced by three single light windows, and on this gable is the bell turret, which has preserved in it the rich fine-toned bell of the old church. The high altar, which is of wood, is of noble design and proportions, and which at the dedication service was very tastefully decorated with flowers and candles.

The sanctuary rail is of canary wood framing with mahogany capping, crisped and carved heads and columns, and altogether a pleasing design. The roof is an open timber one, having pitch-pine principals, with carved braces and white wood sheeting, divided into compartments by moulded ribs and cornices. The passages of the church are laid with encaustic tiling. New benches

and confessionals complete the internal fittings of the church. The architect was Mr. J. J. McDonnell, J.P., M.R.I.A.I., Belfast, and the contractor was Mr. D. McNaughten, of Randalstown and Lurgan. The internal decorations were carried out by Mr. Boyle, decorator, Cookstown. The church is now one of the neatest and nicest in appearance in the country, which is especially gratifying to the faithful Catholics in the district. The old building has been replaced by one which will compare in finish with more pretentious structures. The result was due very largely to the deep religious zeal of Canon McNece, who spared no efforts to provide the district with that style of church accommodation suited to the needs of the people. The entire amount subscribed in connection with the dedication was £1,100, which not only placed the church free of debt, but permitted a substantial balance to form the nucleus of a fund for the erection of the new schools. In his zealous work Canon McNece received the able assistance of his curates, Rev. T. McWilliams and T. Rogers. His Eminence Cardinal Logue also lent his powerful aid, and by personal interest and exhortation to his people contributed very largely to the result. The people of the district certainly deserve all praise for the manner they not only on that occasion, but on many others, displayed that love of faith which is so firmly planted in them. And to such a people the erection of a new church was only a labour of love, and the satisfaction of worshipping there is to them a recompense of the greatest possible character.

The dedication ceremony began at eleven o'clock, after which High Mass was celebrated in the presence of his Eminence Cardinal Logue and the Most Rev. Dr. Healy, Bishop of Clonfert. The Cardinal was assisted at the throne by Very Rev. Canon Coyne, P.P., Keady, and the Very Rev. Canon Rice, P.P., V.F., Cookstown. High Mass was celebrated by Rev. H. McOscar, P.P., Moy; Rev. T. Rogers, C.C., Magherafelt, deacon; Rev. M. Mackle, C.C., Upper Killeavy, sub-deacon; Rev. J. Quinn, Adm., Armagh; and Rev. A. McPeake, Moneymore, master of ceremonies.

The remaining clergy present were—Right Rev. Monseigneur McGurk, P.P., Maghera; Very Rev. Canon McGeeney, P.P., Crossmaglen; Rev. J. Loughran, P.P., Arboe; Rev. P. Callan, P.P., Errigall Trugh; Rev. T. J. Larkin, P.P., Moneymore; Rev. J. McCoy, P.P., Ballinderry; Rev. M. O'Donnell, P.P., Loughgall; Very Rev. C. Quinn, P.P., Dunane; Rev. P. O'Kane, P.P., Lavey; Rev. T. McWilliams, C.C., Magherafelt; Rev. B. O'Connor, C.C., Portadown; Rev. C. Montague, C.C., Ballinderry; Rev. H. Mackin, C.C., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Rev. Father Digney, C.C., Dunane; Rev. Father O'Sullivan, C.C., Dunane; Rev. Father Kearney, C.C., Bellaghy.

An eloquent sermon was preached by the Most Rev. Dr. Healy, Bishop of Clonfert,

who took for his text—"This is the house of the Lord, firmly built, well founded on the solid rock." The music was admirably rendered by the Magherafelt Choir, under the leadership of Mr. M. J. O'Neill.

At the conclusion of the service the collection was taken up, the collectors being—Messrs. J. J. McDonnell, J.P., Belfast; R. McGuckin, solicitor, Magherafelt; E. Connelly, Belfast; James Harbison, J.P., Magherafelt; John Donaghy, Magherafelt; Felix Ferran, J.P., Magherafelt; John Harbison, solicitor, Magherafelt; J. I. Donaghy, B.A., solicitor, Magherafelt; James Kilroe, J.P., Magherafelt; William Harbison, J.P., Magherafelt; J. Toner, Belfast; A. Connelly, Belfast; John O'Kane, Ballymena; P. Connelly, Belfast; Owen McErlane, Dunane; B. Rogers, Drapers-town; Louis Walsh, Maghera; Thomas J. S. Harbison, solicitor, Cookstown; James Bradley, Belfast; John Keenan, J.P., Leitrim.

The people of Newbridge contributed almost £500, the largest subscribers being Robert McWilliams, £7; Henry Diamond, £7; Denis McKeever, £6; Henry Shiels, late Nicholas Mulholland, Michael McKenna, J.P. and Hugh McGeary, subscribed £5 10s each; William Gribben, Henry Walls, Patrick McKenna, James Murphy, Patrick Devlin, William Logan and Robert Cudden, £5 each; John Mackle, £4 10s; Bernard Devlin, Patrick Mulholland, £4 7s each; Henry Walls, jun., Edward O'Neill £4 5s each; Patrick Devlin, £1 2s 6d; Manus McGrogan, Mrs. Patrick Hurl, and per Sergeant Thomas Fennell, R.I.C., Tullamore, £4 each; Robert McLernon, £3 10s; Michael Martin, £3 5s; John McLernon, £3 2s 6d. The remaining were from £3 down. Cardinal Logue gave £10; Canon McNece, £25; and Very Rev. B. Murphy, P.P., Carrickmore, £10. Amongst the others who subscribed were late Mr. R. McGuckin, solicitor, £15; James Kilroe, J.P., late John McNamee, Felix Ferran, J.P., late Joseph McMenamin, and J. O'Connell, Inspector National Schools, Castle-dawson, £5 each; John Harbison, solicitor, £3 3s; Lawrence Higgins, J.P., and late James Harbison, J.P., £3 each; J. I. Donaghy, B.A., solicitor, £2 2s; John Donaghy, £2; Mr. McDonnell, J.P., architect, Belfast, £10; Alex. Connelly and E. Connelly, £5 each; John Keenan, J.P., Leitrim, £2. A large amount was also received through natives of Newbridge in America, Scotland, England, and Australia. A commodious curate's residence has also been provided, in which the popular curate, Rev. P. Moore, resides. The ground on which the house is built on was the gift of Lady Spencer Chichester. The people of Newbridge are to be complimented on the fine church and residence which they now possess.

THE RAINEY SCHOOL.

Though Magherafelt cannot lay claim to being a commercial centre of much importance, yet it can boast of having one of the most successful secondary schools in Ulster at the present time. The founder, Mr. Hugh Rainey, was one of the residents of the town during the latter part of the seventeenth and early portion of the eighteenth centuries. He was possessed of considerable wealth, and occupied a good social position, being one of the Grand Jurors of the County from 1695 till 1703. He became imbued with the idea of doing what he could to enable the poor lads of his native town to fit themselves to successfully fight the battle of life by placing within their reach the advantages of free education and the learning of suitable trades. By his will, which was dated 11th April, 1707, he bequeathed his estate to trustees, Thomas Ash and John Rainey, for the purpose of having a suitable school-house built in Magherafelt, into which his executors should, in the month of November, 1713, put eight boys, and in each succeeding year, in the same month, eight boys, sons of parents who were of good repute and reduced to poverty. The boys so admitted were to be clothed and fed in the house appointed for that purpose for three years. In the month of November, 1716, and in each succeeding year, eight of the said boys so taught and maintained, were to be bound to such trade or occupation as was judged most fit for his genius, and given a suit of new clothes, an apprentice fee of fifty shillings in money, and put into a family of good repute. Eight boys so qualified were to be put out and eight put in by his executors at November in every year for ever, but if the income of one-half of the estate should not be a sufficient fund for the support of so many poor boys, then their number was to be reduced to so many as could be decently brought up. He also directed that two old, grave, and good men, known Christians, such as really feared God, and were qualified to read the Scriptures to the boys, sing psalms, and pray morning and evening, should be appointed, and if they were found defective or unable to perform those duties they were to be outed and others written for to the Presbytery of Ulster, which was to find capable men to instruct the youths. The old men were to be clothed, to diet with the boys, and be over them. And, further, if it should happen that either the old men or any of the boys did not behave as expected, the

executors, or such as were only life-interesters of his estate, were empowered to turn them out and put in such as should be deserving. He also left £5 a year for the benefit of the poor of the Parish of Magherafelt, £5 annually to the Presbyterian minister of Magherafelt, and £2 yearly for the encouragement of a schoolmaster to teach the poor orphans, or such as should not be able to pay. He further bequeathed all his worldly concerns upon trust to his executors, who were to realise same and to lay out the money upon the purchase of a freehold estate of the annual value of £400, one half to go to certain of his relatives, and the other half to be devoted and set apart for pious uses for ever, viz., the providing of a school, etc. The following was his estimate of the cost of maintaining, etc., of the boys:—

| | Yearly. |
|--|---------|
| 21 boys maintenance, £3 each | £72 |
| 21 boys' suits, £1 5s | 30 |
| Apprentice fee, 8 boys | 20 |
| 8 suits for apprentices | 10 |
| For firing and candles | 8 |
| For two women to wash clothes and dress meat | 6 |

There were to be two tables, at each of which twelve boys were to sit, and one of the old men at each table, who were to have their eyes on the boys, and if any were wicked the old men were to put them out and to put others in. He left the management of the stock of Ballinderry (Salterstown) and his own forge to his son Ash, and directed him to get the stocks of the several forges valued and kept going, especially his own forge at Killinksey, for seven years. He recommended two executors to consult able counsel to draw up a short Act of Parliament to confirm his will, so that it would be out of the power of any that should be entrusted with his property to mis-apply same.

Hugh Rainey was a Presbyterian and a ruling elder in Castledawson congregation (Magherafelt at that date not having been formed into a separate congregation). He died very shortly after making his will, and Probate was granted on the 19th May, 1708, to Thomas Ash and John Rainey, the executors. They disposed of the estate, and in 1713 they built a schoolhouse in Magherafelt, upon portion of the Salters' Estate, and also acquired a farm of about 12 acres for the purpose of the school, which they held at a yearly rent.

It would appear that the two executors died without having fully carried out the trusts which then devolved upon Thomas Ash, a nephew, who became the life tenant. He purchased the freehold estate in County Down known as "The Ten Towns of Lecale," which comprised 2,529 acres of the richest land in that county for £6,545, subject to the yearly rent of £5. The purchase money, it seems, exceeded the available fund of the testator's estate, which amounted to £4,064, and he borrowed the balance, £2,481, on mortgage. The estate was then valued at £400. Thomas Ash was succeeded by his son, John Ash, who adopted the name of Rainey, and at his death his brother William succeeded. He also adopted the name of Rainey. In 1738 William Ash Rainey obtained a private Act of the Irish Parliament to make the will more effectual—which Hugh Rainey had directed to be obtained. This Act made certain provisions for the management and letting of the lands, and directed that in lieu of the moiety of the estate, the lands stand charged with the yearly rent of £175 (Irish), equivalent to £161 13s 9d present currency, payable to His Grace High Lord Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, for the supporting, maintaining, educating, and placing out to trades or occupation twenty-four boys under the trust, and subject to the nomination provided in the will. This was confirmation of the testator's will, "in order that it might be out of the power of any that should be entrusted with his property to mis-apply the same." Thus by the Act of Parliament the real control of the charity passed from the descendants of the testator to the Primate of All Ireland for the time being. It would seem that Primate Boul who had great weight, probably assisted in having the Act passed, but it did not appear that any succeeding Primate availed himself of the control thus vested in him. One rector of Magherafelt, Dr. Barnard, seems to have checked the accounts for some years on behalf of Primate Robinson, but it was soon abandoned. The Ash family continued to manage the school. The farm of 12 acres was laboured by the children, and the school was maintained by Miss E. Ash, grand-daughter of the executor, whose brother, Mr. James Ash Rainey, was a confectioner in Capel Street, Dublin. He subsequently disposed of his sister, and assumed the management, residing in the school and receiving the income till his death. It appears he was advanced in years and addicted to drink, and very few children were in attendance at the school, which was not well managed. He died in December, 1847, and his rights were claimed by his grand-son, Mr. John

Ash Gausson. The late Rev. Charles King-Irwin, shortly after his appointment as rector of Magherafelt in 1844, obtained access to the will and Act of Parliament. He then found that certain Primates had evidently not fully appreciated their position under the Act of Parliament, and he submitted to the then Primate that the estate out of which the charity was obtained was limited to the male issue of the sons of the testator's executor, and failing them, to the male issue of his daughters, that John Ash Rainey was the last male representative of the testator, that the Act of Parliament made the Lord Primate the receiver of the rent charges, and he was charged with the maintaining, &c., of the boys. His Grace took the opinion of Richard B. Warren, Q.C., who gave it as his opinion that the property having passed into the hands of strangers, the entire management of the charity devolved upon the Primate. The Rev. C. K. Irwin, on the 23rd April, 1848, made a formal demand for the school, which he received, and though two violent attempts were made to forcibly recover possession, he held it. The rent roll then amounted to £161 10s 9½, which had been collected by Sir Robert Bateson, Bart., but he declined to take any future action in collecting it when the Primate took the matter in hands.

The Rev. C. K. Irwin suggested to the Primate that as there could not be, any longer, a person residing in the School as superintendent, distinct and separate from the Schoolmaster, the farm be given rent free to the Schoolmaster with liberty for him to employ the labour of the boys; that he should have a stated salary and a small allowance for each boy in aid of maintenance, and that the rent charge be employed in defraying those charges, together with the expenses of clothing and apprenticing and keeping the fabric of the School in repair. The Primate approved of these suggestions, and recommended that the number of boarders be increased to five, and the following year to ten.

The Rev. Mr. Irwin, in July, 1849, appointed James Goodwin (who had been Parish Clerk and Schoolmaster of the Parochial School) to be Schoolmaster of the Rainey School at a salary of £20, and an allowance of £5 for each boy in aid of subsistence, and directed that the School should consist of 15 boys (commencing with 5 and admitting 5 each year.) He also made Goodwin enter into a bond of £500 with two sureties to give up peaceable possession. The boys admitted were not, it seems, confined to Magherafelt, some being from Ballyriff and some from Ballymultrea.

The Lord Primate and the Salters' Company, as co-trustees, appointed the rector of Magherafelt, and the Company's resident agent respectively as visitors, and from 1864 Rainey's endowment was handed over by the Primate to the Salters' agent, who paid the entire expenses of the School.

The first Head Master appointed after the re-building of the School (which took place in 1865) was Mr. H. E. Kincaid, M.A. (Cantab.) The salary was £150 a year, exclusive of residence, school fees, etc., and in a letter of 5th October, 1888, to the Commissioners of the Educational Endowments (Ireland) Commission, he estimated his entire income at £240:—Salary £150, house and grounds £30, fees £40, allowances £15, results £5. In addition to Mr. Kincaid, there were two assistants. One received £80 and the other £20 per annum. The average yearly expenditure varied from £375 to £400, which was made up by a grant of from £150 to £200 annually from the Company as required. In 1879 the School was opened to all denominations, and all ministers of religion were given equal rights of access for the purpose of imparting religious instruction to the pupils. In that year the "Foundation Boys" included 17 Church of Ireland, 11 Presbyterians, and 2 Roman Catholics—in the same year the School was placed under the Intermediate Act.

The Salters' Company, in order to be kept informed of the progress made in the School, had yearly examinations held by competent persons. For a number of years the Rev. P. Bookey, M.A., T.C.D., Clonoe Rectory, Coalisland, was the examiner, and the examinations generally took place in June, the subjects being:—English, Classics, Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, French, Latin, Drawing, Writing and Dictation. The Examiner reported to the Salters' Company the result of the examination, giving the names of the prize-winners, and the Company then forwarded prizes, which included a Silver Medal for superior answering; prizes for regular attendance and good conduct, and also for neatness and care of clothes. In the report for 1884, it is stated that three of the boys passed with credit at the intermediate Examination held in 1883, and that for the year 1884 seven boys had been sent up, five being Foundationers. It was also stated that two of the pupils had taken Exhibitions—one in Trinity College, and one in Queen's College. On the 1st January, 1886, the 30 boys were thus represented:—15 Church of Ireland, 8 Presbyterians, and 7 Roman Catholics. The School continued to be managed by the Primate and the Salters' Company, and in 1886 the Company, contemplating the sale of their Estate, decided to dispose of all the primary Schools

they had been supporting, by giving them to the various denominations, and they naturally wished to do something for the Rainey School.

The Endowment Commissioners held an Inquiry in 1886, when the Presbyterians (for the first time so far as can be ascertained) put forward a claim to the Endowment under Rainey's will. After a lot of correspondence, the Salters' Company decided to hand over the School Buildings and the Markets—the gross amount of the proposed Endowment being £191 annually. This decision was conveyed in a letter, dated 5th March, 1887, and the question arose as to the constitution of the governing body which was to manage the School. Mr. Henry Cartwright (afterwards Sir Henry Cartwright) wrote to the Commission that the intention of the Company was that a Joint Board of Governors should be appointed, composed of representatives of the Church of Ireland and the Presbyterian Church, but open to children of all denominations, with the Lord Primate as Chairman. As the Commission had understood previously that the Company contemplated the incorporation of a Board of representative Governors, the Secretary to the Commission wrote for the purpose of ascertaining the Company's exact views on the subject, and on the 26th July, 1887, the Company replied that they desired to remain neutral on the matter. The Commission then decided to make a draft Scheme, confining it to Rainey's Endowment. Prior to the publication of the Scheme, the late Rev. Canon Donnelly, Parish Priest, the late Rev. J. J. Quinn, C.C., and the late Mr. John Donaghy, in a letter dated 16th December, 1887, put forward a claim to a share of the Endowment. Their proposal consisted of two alternative Schemes, based on the division of the Foundations and Endowments—one for girls and one for boys. They stated that they would carry on the work of education of girls by devoting the grant made to the maintenance in part—(a) of a poor or primary school, and (b) of a high class school. The primary school would be erected at a cost of £300, and the high class school would be held in the Manor House, and the Schools, so far as secular instruction was concerned, would be open to all creeds and classes. The Scheme for boys was that the Catholics were building a new boys' Schools, and could, if the grant were obtained, erect a building to suit both an elementary and high class School. But they preferred the adoption of the Scheme for the girls' School. The mode of division suggested was—that as the substantial portion of the Endowments had been made by the Salters' Company, a division based on the proportion of the population would be equitable. According to the Census in 1881, there were on the Salters' Estate

The following time-table was drawn up:—
SUMMER.

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 6 o'clock till 7, | cleaning yards, cattle, etc. |
| 7 " " 7½, | washing and prep. lessons. |
| 7½ " " 8½, | prayers and breakfast. |
| 8½ " " 1, | school. |
| 1 p.m. " 1½, | dinner. |
| 1½ " " 7, | working on farm. |
| 7½ " " 8, | supper. |
| 8 " " 9½, | prep. lessons for next day. |
| 9½ " " 10, | prayers and bed. |

This time table was slightly altered in winter. It seems that Goodwin "after a long course of grievous sin, cloaked with 'consummate hypocrisy,' absconded on the 22nd November, 1851, leaving debts amounting to £200. His wife remained behind, turned out the boys, and kept possession till 29th November. She was then removed, and the Rev. Mr. Irwin brought back the boys, appointed a temporary caretaker, and caused the boys to attend the Parochial Daily School until a permanent master was appointed. On the 11th December, 1851, he appointed Mr. Edward Bear, then Master of the Aughrim School, as Schoolmaster of the Rainey School, and made him a weekly tenant. In the year 1853, owing to the great advance in the price of provisions, he resolved to admit only 4 boys instead of 6, and for a similar cause in 1855 the number of boys to be admitted was reduced to 3.

The Educational Endowments Commission, which investigated all the Endowed Schools in Ireland in 1854 to 1858, reported in the latter year that the Rainey School was no longer capable of maintaining 24 boys, as directed by the testator; that even the ten boarders then on the foundation, could only be supported by the diversion of their time and attention from a course of instruction to the tillage of a farm of 12 acres, which the Master cultivated by permission of the trustee, his Grace the Lord Primate, and that the land was held under a tenancy at will from the Salters' Company's lessees at a rent of £17 2s 0d. They further reported that the course of instruction given in the School consisted of reading, writing, grammar, geography, arithmetic and church catechism. The annual salary of the Master was £20, and his other emoluments were a house valued at £4 yearly, and the overplus of profits of farm after dieting the boys. The number of pupils the school-room was suited to accommodate was 35 and 11 boarders, and the playground was small. There were ten boys on the rolls—3 of which were Presbyterians and 7 belonged to the United Church. The schoolhouse was falling into ruin, having no fund for its repair, the premises being held at will only.

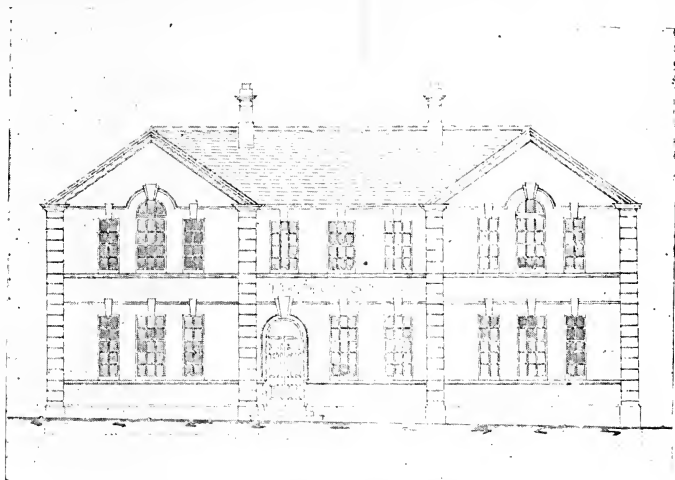
A deputation from the Salters' Co. visited the School in the later part of the year 1849. The Rev. C. K. Irwin met the deputation at

the building, explained the particulars of the foundation, and expressed a strong hope that the Company would take an interest in the charity when they took over possession of their Estate, and added that he felt sure his Grace, the Primate, would gladly admit their co-operation in the management of the Trust and render it more extensively useful. In November, 1860, it appears that correspondence took place between the then Primate and the Salters' Company in reference to the presentation of a petition to the Master in Chancery for an alteration in the administration of the Trust (following the example of a certain Primate in regard to the Drelin Court School), owing to the ruin the Rainey School had fallen into, and the small number of boys which the funds were only able to maintain. The matters having been arranged, a petition was presented on the 28th April, 1862, signed by the Primate and Rev. Mr. Irwin, Rector of Magherafelt. It suggested that the existing dilapidated schoolhouse and farm should be surrendered to the Salters' Company, who had promised to defray the expense of erecting a suitable School on an eligible site in Magherafelt, and to execute a declaration of trust, or otherwise secure same for the objects of the charity; that Rainey's Endowment should be applied for the support of the School and free elementary education, and religious instruction be given to 30 boys as day pupils—half to be nominated by the Lord Primate and half by the Salters' Company, and clothing, books and school requisites to be provided free to the boys out of the funds of the Charity; a highly qualified teacher to be nominated by the Lord Primate at a competent salary, and if the funds permitted a pupil teacher, and also for apprenticing one of the scholars every year; the school to be open for the education of other scholars besides those on the Foundation, on the payment of school fees to be regulated by the Lord Primate. On that report Mr. Litton, Master in Chancery, settled a scheme for the management of the School, and on the 21st January, 1863, an order was made confirming same, and that the Company's offer be accepted, the building and premises to be duly conveyed to trustees in perpetuity.

The present School buildings were erected by the Salters' Company and finished in 1864 at a cost of £1,332, and the following inscription put thereon:—

"Rainey's Foundation School, re-built A.D. 1864, by the Worshipful Company of Salters, London, for the education of thirty boys free of all charge, to be styled Foundation Boys."

The School was not re-built on the site of the old school, but on a site a little further down the street.



MAGHERAFELT TECHNICAL SCHOOL.



MR. W. D. COUSINS,
Principal of Magherafelt Technical School.



THE LATE
MR. D. CAMPBELL GAUSSEX, B.L.



MR. JAMES SHIVERS, J.P.



THE LATE MR. CHAS. CONVERY.



MR. W. J. HANNA.

3,199 Protestants, 3,023 Presbyterians, and 3,915 Roman Catholics. A value could be set upon the premises, and the denomination or denominations not occupying them should receive suitable compensation.

The Commission, on the 13th August, 1888, published the Draft Scheme which formed the governing body—half Presbyterians and half Church, with the Primate as Chairman, and with power for the subscribers to elect additional Governors. The Scheme was objected to by all parties. The position of the Scheme regarding the Chairman was objected to by the Presbyterians, as they considered it would give a majority against them; the Primate and Rev. Dr. Jordan (then Rector of Magherafelt) objected owing to being deprived of the power they had, and the Roman Catholics objected to the fundamental principle of the Scheme, which totally excluded them from a participation in the Endowments. The Commission again visited Magherafelt on the 22nd October, 1888. The Salters' Co. wrote wishing to have the Scheme so framed as to dispose of the Markets, which were managed by a Committee appointed by the inhabitants. In 1888 the Committee were:—Dr. Anterson, J.P.; James Harbison, J.P.; Samuel Porter, J.P.; T. H. S. Taylor, John Donaghy, and Alexander Johnston, all since deceased—the

Stores were then let at £164:—

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Net Rent of Markets | £70 |
| Large Grain Store | 22 |
| Small Grain Store | 16 |
| Flax Store | 56 |
| | — |
| | £164 |

After a lot of correspondence, the Company ultimately declared its intention to make the Market property subject to a rent charge of £120 a year, which was the sum the Market Committee were willing to pay; and to give Rainey School £66 a year; and £54 a year for the benefit of Roman Catholic Education. This—they stated—would be in proportion to the number of inhabitants representing the two denominations on their Estate. The Commission then re-cast the draft Scheme, yielding to the objections of the Presbyterians to the extent that they made the then Primate Chairman during his life, and after his death, or in his absence, the Chairman was to be appointed by rotation. This Scheme was signed on the 11th January, 1890, and submitted to the Privy Council, when all the objections disappeared except those of the Presbyterians. The General Assembly sent a deputation claiming to have Rainey's Endowment entirely to themselves, and pressed on the Commissioners their desire to separate this Endowment from the other grants. The Judicial Commissioners took the view (1) that

all the successful Schools which they had met in the North of Ireland were under bodies representing all denominations of Protestants; (2) that Magherafelt was entirely unable to support two Schools for Protestants, and (3) that whatever Rainey's Endowment might have been originally, neither when the Act of Parliament was passed, nor when the Chancery Scheme was got, not at any time for a period of nearly 200 years, had the Presbyterians done anything to assert their rights, therefore they thought they could not exclude the Church people altogether. The Privy Council over-ruled the objections, and on the 19th May, 1890, the Lord Lieutenant approved of the Scheme as signed. The matter was then brought before Parliament, and the Scheme was in part disapproved by Resolution of the House of Commons, on 4th December, 1890. One of the amendments was that the Governors, at their first meeting after the date of the Scheme, and at their first ordinary meeting in each calendar year should elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The Scheme was finally sanctioned by the Privy Council on 12th November, 1891.

The governing body consists of nine members at least, and as many additional members as the subscribers shall elect, subject to certain qualifications and regulations. The four ex-officio Governors are the Primate (or the Governor nominated by him), the Moderator of the General Assembly (or the Governor nominated by him), the Rector of Magherafelt, and the Minister of the First Presbyterian Church. Of the five representative Governors, one shall be elected by the Diocesan Council of Armagh, two by the Presbytery of Magherafelt, one by the Presbytery of Tyrone, and one by the Select Vestry of Magherafelt. The first five representative Governors were:—The late Venerable W. E. Meade, Archdeacon of Armagh (representing the Diocesan Council), the late Rev. A. Minnis, Saltersland, and the late Mr. Andrew Brown, J.P., Magherafelt (representing the Presbytery of Magherafelt); the late Mr. John Glover, solicitor (representing the Presbytery of Tyrone), and the late Mr. John Smyth, Magherafelt (representing the Select Vestry.)

The Scheme also provided for the election of additional Governors. One additional Governor can be elected by ten subscribers, two additional Governors by twenty-five subscribers, three additional Governors by fifty subscribers, and four additional Governors by one hundred subscribers. The qualification of the Subscribers is (a) a subscription of £10, (b) a subscription of £5 from past pupils of the School who had attained the age of 21 years, and had been educated as pupils for not less than three academical years; (c) a subscription of not less than £5 in one sum

by persons who, after 31st December, 1888, paid not less than £10 for the education of a pupil or pupils in the School, and (d) an annual subscription of £1. All the endowments, School premises, etc., are vested in the governing body, who are empowered to manage the property. They may admit boarders, maintain evening classes for all—elementary, intermediate, technical, commercial and other branches of education—including religious instruction, in case the parents do not object to the latter. The Governors are also directed to establish and maintain at least four free Scholarships open to pupils aged between eleven and fourteen years who had made 100 attendances at an elementary within ten miles of Magherafelt, in each of the two years preceding the examination.

From the formation of the School, after the making of the Scheme in November, 1891, till 1894, only boys were admitted. In the latter year, owing to the urgent need for facilities for higher education of girls, the Governors resolved to admit female pupils, and to have the institution conducted as a mixed School. Mr. Kincaid, who had acted as head master since 1864, resigned in 1894, and he was succeeded by the Rev. James McFeeters, M.A., and Miss Henry, L.L.A. (St. Andrew's University), was appointed head mistress of the girls' department. Under their tuition the School made such progress that in 1895 the Governors found it necessary to provide additional accommodation. As the fund at the disposal of the Governors was very limited they made an appeal to the public and £500 was subscribed. A new class-room and dormitory were built, and other improvements carried out, which proved very convenient and comfortable. The Rev. James McFeeters was appointed Principal of Bangor Endowed School in 1893, and he was succeeded by Mr. J. A. Calvin, B.A., LL.B. Miss Henry resigned in 1899, when Miss Hudson, M.A., was appointed, but left the following year, and Miss Patton, B.A., the present head mistress, took up duty.

It was then found that the teachers were placed at a great disadvantage by the want of a properly equipped laboratory for instruction in Science and other kindred subjects, and that the School was suffering from the keen competition of other richly Endowed Schools in Ulster. The Governors were again reluctantly compelled to appeal to the public to come to their assistance, and after a good deal of effort they raised £400. This sum, however, was not sufficient to carry out the necessary requirements, and they were obliged to obtain a loan of £200 from the

intermediate Board, repayable by ten annual instalments of £22 10s 0d each. With this sum another storey was added to the School buildings, new School furniture was provided, and a Science laboratory equipped. The payment of the £22 10s 0d yearly was found to be a great burden, considering the inadequate funds at the disposal of the Governors, and in order to get relieved of that, and to improve the sanitation of the school, and provide more up-to-date equipment, a very successful two-day bazaar was held on the 11th and 12th December, 1912, in the Town Hall, Magherafelt. Sir Hiram Wilkinson presided at the first day's proceedings, and Mrs. Leeper performed the opening ceremony. At the second day's proceedings, Col. J. J. Clark, D.L., J.P., Chairman of the County Council, occupied the chair, and Mrs. Thomson opened the bazaar, and a handsome sum was realized.

The School at present is in a very high state of efficiency, and this year, 1916, the number of pupils on the rolls being 73, as compared with 26 in 1905. This is not surprising, when it is remembered that of the five permanent teachers four are University graduates. In addition there is a visiting teacher for Drawing and Art, Miss J. F. Herries, and one for singing, Mr. Henry Dagger, Coleraine. It can point with pardonable pride to the work which it has carried on, and is carrying on. Some of its pupils have secured exhibitions, medals and special prizes in all grades of the Intermediate Examinations, Entrance Scholarships in Queen's College, Belfast, and three years Scholarships therein, in addition to the Drapers' Company's Scholarship for the girl or boy in Co. Derry who obtained most marks in connection with the Intermediate. Quite a number of pupils are in Banks and positions of trust, and they have a good reputation in the Training Colleges. In the modern language section the position the School occupies is second to none, due to the energy and ability of Miss Patton. It is at present conducted as a day school, but the Governors provided accommodation for boarders by the addition of a large dormitory in 1904.

As already stated, the town can boast of one of the most successful secondary schools in Ulster, and with the following excellent permanent teaching staff:—Mr. J. A. Calvin, B.A., LL.D., head master; Miss Ina Patton, B.A., head mistress; Miss MacMillan, R.U.I., assistant; Mr. W. A. S. Blaine, B.Sc. (London) and A.K.C., assistant, and Miss Harvey, M.A.—its reputation is certain to be further enhanced in the near future.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

The system of National Education was established in Ireland in 1831. Prior to that date many attempts to establish a system on popular lines were made, but owing to various causes, did not permanently succeed. After the conversion of Ireland to Christianity by St. Patrick, towards the end of the fourth century, many great schools were founded, and education spread rapidly all over the country through the teaching of the clergy and learned men. Foreign students flocked to them. Camden says:—"Our Anglo-Saxons went in those times to Ireland, as to 'a fair, to purchase knowledge.'" During the struggle between the Anglo-Normans and the Irish the lamp of learning was almost extinguished. It did burn, but feebly. The Irish Parliament passed an Act in 1537 for the establishment of Parochial Schools throughout the country, which was the first attempt at a systematised plan of public elementary education in Ireland. Then in 1570 a further Act was passed for the formation of Diocesan Free Schools. Those schools were to be erected in the principal shire towns in each diocese at the cost of the whole diocese. The Lord Lieutenant and some of the Bishops had the right of appointing the teachers, but owing to defects in the Act of Parliament: the smallness of the salaries fixed; difference of opinion as to the objects for which the schools were established, etc., they were never very successful. Those that remained in operation were, it appears, conducted as Grammar or Classical Schools. There were fourteen of these schools in operation at the time of the passing of the Irish Church Act, which seems to have put a termination to their existence.

The advent of the National Board system was not received with the enthusiasm that was expected. The chief objection which was put forward by the clergy of the Church of Ireland, and also by the ministers of the Presbyterian Church, was the exclusion of the Bible from the curriculum during the hours of combined literary instruction. To meet this demand the Commissioners prepared a series of selections from the Scriptures for use in the schools. But this concession evidently did not give complete satisfaction; the consequence being that progress was very slow. In 1834 there were only 789 schools in connection with the Board, with 107,042 pupils. The Commissioners then made a further concession, with the result that in 1835 there were 1,106 schools, with 145,521 pupils on rolls. Matters, however, ran none too smoothly, and the Government appointed Committees of the House of Lords and House

of Commons to enquire into the system. The result was that modifications were made in 1838. These evidently did not satisfy the clergy and many laymen of the Church of Ireland, and accordingly they formed "The Church Education Society," the object being to assist schools then in existence, and to establish new schools on an improved system, for the purpose of affording to the children of the Church instruction in the Holy Scriptures, Catechism and other formularies of the Church, under the direction of the bishops and parochial clergy, and under the tuition of teachers who were members of the United Church of England and Ireland. This Society, which was generously supported, undertook and fulfilled all the functions of an education board, including the supply of books and requisites, inspection of schools and training of teachers. The schools were open to children of all religious denominations, subject to the unvarying rule that every pupil able to read should read the Bible daily as part of the school course. In 1867 there were 1,451 schools, with 63,549 pupils on rolls connected with the Society, and the subscriptions amounted to £44,169. This Society flourished till the Disestablishment of the Church, after which the schools went in under the National Board.

The Presbyterian secession from the National Board ended in 1840, the Commissioners having modified their rules, leaving it open to managers of non-vested schools to arrange their time table so as to afford a reasonable option in respect of religious instruction.

So far as can be ascertained the Parochial Boys' School, situated in Church Street was, next to the Rainey School, the oldest existing school in town. When it was first erected is not accurately known. In 1838 the building was almost a ruin. It was pulled down, and a new one erected in 1844 at a cost of £145. The tablet which was hung up in the school bears the following inscription:—

"Erected in 1844, and presented to the Parishioners by the Rev. Thomas Agmon Vesey, aided by the Salters' Company and other friends."

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Rev. T. A. Vesey | £60 |
| Salters' Company | 60 |
| Sir Robert Bateson | 15 |
| Andrew Spotswood | 5 |
| Rev. William Vesey | 5 |

£145

A deputation of the Salters' Company which visited the estate in 1819, also visited the schools, and in reference to this school reported that the master was Mr. Goodwin; that the school was under the superintendence of the Rev. C. K. Irwin and in connection with the Church Education Society. The number of boys on the rolls was 66, and the average attendance 40. The master had a house and garden attached. The salary and advantages were:—

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| From the Lessees of the Estate | |
| per annum | £10 10 0 |
| From the Rector—Salary and | |
| Requisites | 3 14 0 |
| From the Salters' Co. | 5 5 0 |
| From the Scholars—about | 20 0 0 |
| House and Garden—value about | 3 0 0 |
| | <hr/> |
| | £42 9 0 |

There was also a gratuity, according to merit from the Church Education Society—which amounted to £3 the previous year. There were 59 Church of England scholars, and 7 Roman Catholic scholars at the school. The report further states that Mr. Goodwin had a salary of £10 as Parish Clerk, and that his duties were limited to the Divine Service, and also that the attendance on the part of the children was much lessened in April, May and June in consequence of seed time and turf making. The average attendance for the fortnight ended 21st July, 1849, was 55.

Mr. Goodwin was subsequently appointed schoolmaster of the Rainey School, and a Mr. Bernard was appointed as his successor. The next teacher was Mr. W. B. Charters, who was appointed in 1858. He was also the first organist of St. Swithin's Church. The school, after some years, was closed, owing to the irregular and insufficient attendance, and remained closed till the late Rev. Prebendary Jordan, D.D., became rector. It was then re-opened in 1880, under the National Board, with Mr. Francis Richardson as teacher, and remained in operation till the end of January, 1909, when it was amalgamated with the Girls' School, under Miss Barber. The school has been converted into a commodious Parochial Hall by the Rev. G. W. Lindsay, M.A., and supplies a long felt want.

The Parochial Girls' School (now a mixed school) and teachers' residences, were built by the Salters' Company in 1859 at a cost of £860. The school was opened on the 1st August, 1859 under the Church Education Society, and came under the National Board on the 1st September, 1870. Miss Cowan (afterwards Mrs. Steacy) was the first teacher. In September, 1872, Miss Sarah A. Jatimer was appointed assistant at a salary of £20 yearly, and she ceased to act in 1875. In 1874 Miss Cowan's salary was £24 yearly, and increased to £30 in April, 1875. In that year a mistress was appointed at £6. Mrs. Steacy resigned on pension in 1893 when Miss

M'Keown (now Mrs. Orr, of Castleblaney) became teacher. She was succeeded in 1895 by Miss Chapman, who in 1897 was replaced by the present excellent teacher, Miss Barber. Her assistant is Miss Maitland. Extensive alterations have been made to the mixed school, including the addition of a spacious class-room and modern sanitary arrangements, by the Rev. G. W. Lindsay, A.M. The School is in a very efficient state. The two residences were also converted into one commodious dwelling-house, the whole costing almost £500. The school, parochial hall and residence, with gardens attached, were conveyed free to the Armagh Diocesan Trustees by the Salters' Company, on the 2nd February, 1888.

In 1849 the Parochial Female School, then called Lady Bateson's School, was situated on Union Road and after the sale of the Salters' Estate ceased to exist as such, and was converted into a dwelling-house, and is now occupied by Mr. P. J. Henry, solicitor, as an office—being the property of Dr. Hegarty, J.P. The number of pupils on the rolls in 1849 was 83, and the average attendance 66. The salary and advantages at that period were:—

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| From Lady Bateson, per annum | £20 0 0 |
| From Salters' Co. | 5 5 0 |
| From the Rector—Salary and | |
| Requisites | 4 12 6 |
| From Miss Holliday Rent of | |
| Residence | 2 12 0 |
| From Pupils (1848) | 6 0 0 |
| | <hr/> |
| | £38 9 6 |

Miss Harvey, the then teacher, was also awarded a gratuity from the Church Education Society—the amount for the previous year being £3 10s 0d. Of the 83 scholars, 46 belonged to the Church of England and Ireland, 18 to the Presbyterian Church, and 19 to the Roman Catholic Church.

This school was one of three situated on the Salters' Estate where females were separately attended to; instructed and taught knitting rough stitching and good needlework, and where careful attention was paid to the children's personal condition and habits of female decorum. Miss Harvey, the teacher, when a little girl, is said to have had the honour of sitting on the knee of King George the Fourth. When she retired on pension she went to reside at Gracefield, Ballymaguigan. The last teacher of this school was a Miss Tow, who resided in the house now used by Dr. Hegarty as a surgery.

The Presbyterian Male and Female Schools, popularly known as the "Fair Hill Schools," occupied the site of the present commodious buildings, and were built in the year 1846. The first principals were Mr. Thomas Lowry and Miss Anna Britain.

When the deputation of the Salters' Company visited them in 1849, they reported that the male school was in connection with the National Board of Education, under the care of the Rev. James Wilson, and superintended by a committee. The number of pupils on the rolls was 50 males and 72 females, and the average attendance 43 and 44 respectively. The schools were under the one roof and were admirably conducted. The committee had secured to the male teacher a salary of £45 for the year. Of that sum the National Board paid £18, and the remainder—£27—was to be raised by fees from the scholars—a considerable sum in those days—and in case the fees did not reach that amount, the committee were to make up the deficiency by subscriptions. The salary of the female teacher was £5 yearly from the Salters' Company and fees from the children—which for that year amounted to £12—making her total salary £17. The deputation added that Miss Britain seemed to be a well conducted person. Mr. Lowry was succeeded by Mr. Hugh Caldwell, who in turn gave place to Mr. Samuel M'Murray, B.A., father of the Rev. W. B. M'Murray, M.A., the popular minister of Whiteabbey Presbyterian Church. Mr. M'Murray successfully conducted the school for a number of years, and resigned on securing the principalship of St. Enoch's National School, Belfast—one of the most important in that city, and of which he is still the esteemed guiding hand. Mr. William Scillely—now retired and residing on his farm in Toberhead—was next appointed master, and was followed by Mr. Richard Mercer, who was succeeded by Mr. Samuel Ross M'Clements. Subsequently Mr. John Stewart was appointed, and continued till the old Schools were pulled down. In the female department, on Miss Britain's resignation, Miss R. Steen was appointed, and she was succeeded by Miss Cunningham, after which Miss Boden—now Mrs. John Stewart, secured the position.

So popular did the schools become that the premises became inadequate, and the manager, Rev. George Gillespie, M.A., with the support of the members of the First Presbyterian congregation decided to build new schools with up-to-date arrangements. This required a great and united effort, which was ungrudgingly put forth, with the result that the present fine schools, equipped in every detail, were opened in 1895, having cost almost £900. The Commissioners of National Education made a grant towards the building fund, and the remainder was contributed, partly by the congregation, and partly by the proceeds of a bazaar. The principals of the new schools are Mr. John Stewart and Mrs. Stewart, who held similar positions in the old premises, and their present assistants are Mrs. Isabella Stewart, and Miss S. M'Cartney, respectively. The

schools are in a most flourishing condition, due to the confidence in the teaching staff.

There was a school in connection with the Methodist Church in existence in 1826. It was situated down a lane convenient to the present Methodist Church, and the teacher was Mr. J. Seymour, who also preached on Sunday. Owing to the absence of sufficient funds, it ceased some years afterwards, and was converted into a Sunday School. In 1849 there were 23 names on the books, and the clergyman in charge was the Rev. John Foster.

So far as the oldest inhabitant can recollect, the first Catholic School in Magherafelt was situated in the Diamond, in premises at present occupied by Mr. John Kane, J.P., as a store. The school was then transferred to Garden Street, and occupied that part of upper portion of the premises occupied by Mr. Joseph Cowan, next to Mr. Oliphant's dwelling-house. In 1849 it was under the National Board, and there were thirty boys on the rolls, with an average attendance of 25. The last principal was Mr. Christopher Trainor. Subsequently the premises were found unsuitable, and negotiations with the Salters' Company were so successful that they not only erected the school building in King Street but, in addition, kept it in fuel and repair. It served both as a male and female school, and was opened on the 5th February, 1861, Mr. Christopher Trainor having charge of the boys, and Miss O'Hara (now Mrs. Ludlow) the girls. Mr. Trainor was succeeded by Mr. James M'Killip. Afterwards Mr. James M'Goldrick, from Armagh, was appointed. It was then a desirable school, with a local aid of £25. The next teacher was Mr. J. Maguire, followed by Mr. John M'Bride. Mr. Maguire returned, and after a lengthened period of faithful service he resigned, and Mr. Matthew J. O'Neill, the present popular and efficient teacher, took charge. Miss O'Hara continued as principal of the girls' section till 1899 when, after 28 years of faithful service, she resigned, and the children were transferred to the Convent, where they were taken charge of by the teaching Sisters—a very fine school having been erected for their accommodation. The school in King Street, which up to 1889 did duty for both girls and boys, was considered insufficient, and the present boys' school was erected in that year. Mr. O'Neill's assistant is Mr. James Caraher, and the school is in a flourishing condition.

Coolshinney National School is one of the oldest in the district. In 1849 there were 39 males and 30 females on the rolls, with an average attendance of 42. It was then in connection with the Church Education Society, and remained under its jurisdiction till 1863, when it was transferred to the National Board. The salary of the teacher

was £9 5s 0d, made up of a salary of £5 from Lord Londonderry and Sir Robert Bateson; £4 from the scholars, and 5s, value of grass on school yard. This school was situated on the freehold possessed by the Rev. R. Olpherts and others, and it extended its usefulness to the population on the Salters' property and the Megargy freehold. The school was one of the Endowed Schools, into whose efficiency the Endowed School Commissioners enquired in 1856. It was endowed by the Rev. Richard Olpherts, who held a lease from the Salters' Company for 99 years, from the 1st January, 1827. The Commissioners found that the master was enjoying the princely salary (exclusive of school fees) of £9 10s 0d, of which the Salters' Company paid £7, and the Drapers' Company £2 10s 0d. The school was capable of affording accommodation for 98 pupils, but there was only 46 on the rolls—35 Presbyterians, 9 United Church, and 2 Roman Catholics—with an average attendance of 22. On the 23rd September, 1856, Mr. William Dwyer Ferguson, LL.D., one of the assistant commissioners, visited the school and reported as follows:—"The warming is very defective, and indeed the room was wretchedly cold on the day of my visit. The flooring is of earth and very unfit for poor children's feet in winter. Of those present there were but two whom I could examine; they were aged thirteen and twelve years. Their writing from dictation was very bad. They could not answer anything in grammar or geography"—one boy said Dublin was on the river Thames. In arithmetic they answered "respectably. The day having been very severe, and the harvest time at hand, I cannot say whether the eight pupils present formed a fair specimen." The first teacher of the school, under the National Board, was a Mr. Falone, and on his resignation a Mr. Murdock was appointed. In addition to imparting knowledge to the pupils during school hours, he was an expert in curing that deadly disease, cancer, and afflicted persons from all parts of the country visited Coolshinney, and it is said they received great benefit. Mr. Murdock was succeeded by Mr. Conn. The school was then in a flourishing condition, and a Miss Ellis (now Mrs. Samuel Palmer) was appointed assistant. The school had been under the management of the Rector of Magherafelt till 1886, when it was transferred to the Minister of First Magherafelt, under whose management it still remains. Mr. Conn resigned in 1891, and was succeeded by Mr. David Orr, who remained ten years in charge, when he resigned on securing the principalship of Castleblaney N.S. He was followed by Mr. Malone who, in 1907, gave place to Mr. J. McIlwrath, the present excellent and successful teacher. He is assisted by Miss Semple, workmistress.

Aughrim National School. This school is situated about a mile and a half from Magherafelt, and was built in the latter part of the 18th Century by the Church Education Society, assisted by local funds. In 1837 there were 179 scholars (boys and girls) in attendance, and the master's wife taught the girls for two hours each day. For this service the Salters' Co. paid her £2 12s 6d per annum, and Lady Bateson contributed a similar sum. This satisfactory attendance, however, did not continue for any considerable period, for in 1849 there were only 80 pupils on the roll (46 boys and 34 girls), with an average attendance of 40. The master at this period was Mr. Edward Bear, and his salary was made up as follows:—

| | |
|---|----------|
| From Lord Londonderry and Sir Robert Bateson | £5 0 0 |
| „ Lady Bateson and Salters' Co. to the Mistress | 4 12 6 |
| „ Scholars | 4 0 0 |
| „ Church Education Society | 1 10 0 |
| „ House and Land | 2 10 0 |
| | <hr/> |
| | £17 12 6 |

The school building was adequate, and the school was well conducted. Mr. Bear, having been appointed master of the Rainey School on 11th December, 1851, was succeeded by a Mr. Bradley, who, in turn gave place to a Mr. Achenson, and who was followed by Mr. Dailey. Up to the year 1887 the school was under the control of the Salters' Company, who paid the teacher's salary, their agents acting as managers. Upon the Company disposing of their estate, the school and teacher's residence which they had built were handed over to the Diocesan Trustees of the Diocese of Armagh.

In the year 1887 the school was placed under the National Board, and the first teacher under this regime was Mr. Robert Dailey, who had been principal of Moyola Park School, Castledawson, and he took up duty on 1st July, 1887. He continued for fifteen years, and retired on pension in 1902. Mr. John J. Bell was then appointed, but resigned in 1905. He was succeeded by his brother—Mr. George Bell—and three months later a fully qualified assistant was appointed—Miss E. Green. Previous to this there was a workmistress—the last one being Miss Jane Jamison. Mr. George Bell resigned in 1908, and Mr. N. Ennis took up duty, and continued till 1913, when the present teacher, Mr. R. J. F. Hill, took charge, and he is assisted by Mrs. Hill, assistant. The building of a new school is under consideration. The manager is the Rev. F. P. Dudley-Janns, B.A., Rector of the Woods Parish.

Aughagaskin National School. In 1849 this school was a mixed one, and was in connection with the National Board. There were 70 males and 40 females on the rolls, with an average in that year of 46. The salary of the teacher—Mr. James Keatley—was £26—viz., £18 from the National Board and £8 from the scholars. The Rev. James Wilson, minister of First Magherafelt Presbyterian Church, was the manager, and in reply to the deputation of the Salters' Company, who visited the school, stated that the fees from the scholars amounted to a very small sum, owing to the neighbourhood being poor and the inhabitants unable to pay for the education of their children. The teacher was an able and diligent man, and in later years his ability drew scholars from Magherafelt, Castledawson, etc. It was a common occurrence for teachers from surrounding schools to invoke the assistance of Master Keatley in solving difficult problems, of which it seems he was a past master. It is also said he was even consulted by Inspectors. The school buildings became unsuitable, and a new school was built by the Salters' Company in 1862. Mr. Keatley being the first teacher, on his resigning, he was succeeded by Mr. Richardson, from the Draperstown district. The next teacher was a Mr. Henderson from the Blackhill district, and he was succeeded by Miss J. H. Henry, now Mrs. Houston, who was appointed on 23rd February, 1884. Miss Henry remained in charge only a short time, and was followed by Mr. R. G. Fulton. A Miss M'Laughlin was appointed on the 1st April, 1886, and left on the 30th September, 1887. The next teacher was Miss Johnston, now Mrs. Logan, who took charge on the 31st October, 1887, and continued for a good number of years. The last teacher was Miss Lilly, now Mrs. Hutchinson, and owing to the tendency which had been growing for a considerable time previously, of parents sending their children to the schools in Magherafelt—the attendance became so small that the school was closed as such in 1907. The School building is vested in the Committee of Union Road Church.

Ballinderry National School. This school was erected in 1849 from parish funds; was a mixed school; was under the care of the Rev. Dr. Tisdall, rector, and Rev. J. J. Jackson, curate, and was in connection with the Church Education Society. There were 16 males and 11 females on the rolls, with an average attendance of 20. The teacher's salary amounted to £14 yearly—viz., £5 from the Lord Primate, £5 from the Salters' Co., £3 from the Rev. Dr. Tisdall, and £1 from the Rev. J. J. Jackson. The school is contiguous to the church, and in the year it was erected "seemed likely to be highly "beneficial to the population on the neighbourhood part of the Salters' Estate." It

continued under the jurisdiction of the Church Education Society till 1877, when it came under the National Board. The present teacher is Mr. Charles Fleming, and the school is in a flourishing state. Mr. R. J. Hickey, Killymuck, was teacher in this school for a lengthened period, and is now enjoying a well-earned pension.

Gortagilly National School. This school, in 1849, was under the National Board of Education, and in connection with the Presbyterian Church. There were 49 males and 27 females on the rolls, with an average attendance of 40. The salary of the teacher was £25 yearly—viz., £14 from the National Board, £8 from the scholars, and £3 value of house and land. So far as is known, the first principal was a Mr. Morrow, who taught in the old school, which was situated in a corner of the field opposite the present school. He continued till 1870. The present school was built in 1876, consequently he was also principal of the school for three years, and died in 1870. The present school was built by the Salters' Company, who gave three acres of land free, and also built a good dwelling-house for the teacher, the agent of the Salters' Company being manager. At the sale of the Estate, the Salters' Company handed the school over to the Rector of Moneymore—the Rev. W. Sparrow—two-thirds of the children in attendance belonging to the Church of Ireland. Mr. Bell took charge on the death of Mr. Morrow, with a Miss Dearing as assistant. Mr. Bell continued till 1890, when Miss Dearing, then Mrs. Kernoghan, succeeded him. Mrs. Kernoghan resigned in 1895, when Miss Andrews was appointed. She taught till 1901, and was followed by Mr. White, with Miss Kingston as assistant. The present teacher is Mr. J. M'Fadden. Previous to the National Board doing away with the teaching of agriculture in National Schools, Gortagilly was an agricultural school. The land was laid out as a model farm on a small scale, and the Salters' Company paid a donation of £10 to the teacher. The school has a pretty good record, and amongst those who graduated there were Rev. Mr. Smyth, Belfast; Rev. James Marshall, Mr. R. Harris, M.R.C.V.S., and Mr. R. Cousley, Redford House.

If ancient origin be any aggrandisement in these modern days, then Ballymulderg school can, it seems, boast that it was one of the first—if not the very first school in Ulster under the National Board. It appears, however, that this claim is disputed by a school in the picturesque vale of Glenariffe. Ballymulderg School was first taught by a Mr. John Walls (an ancestor of the present family residing in the neighbourhood). He was a learned classical scholar, to whom students from all parts of the country came to be prepared for the clerical, legal or

medical profession. The school was then situated on the land now occupied by Mr. John M'Nicholl. The manager was a Father Vincent, and the period some 85 years ago. It would appear that Mr. Walls was a teacher of surpassing excellence, much respected by his pupils—one of whom, Mr. Eugene Conville, head Inspector of National Schools, with uncommon thoughtfulness and gratitude, erected a monument to his memory, which can be seen in the Old Eglish Churchyard.

The location of the school seems to have varied with the appointment of teachers, for we next find a record of the school being installed in a barn and taught by a Mr. Bernard Keevin. Next we find it in a dwelling-house, and taught by Mr. James Agnew—father of Mr. Henry Agnew, Ballymulderg. The dwelling-house was the property of Mr. James Flanagan—the teacher's uncle—and is still in existence. Mr. Agnew taught here faithfully and well for many years, and was succeeded by Mr. James Mallon, who was accidentally killed. He was followed by a Mr. Patrick M'Crystal. During his term of office the then manager—Rev. T. Larkin, Moneymore—approached the Salters' Company for a suitable site on which to build a school, but for some cause or other the efforts of the manager did not succeed. It was then a local landowner—our townsman, Mr. Louis Smyth—who has always evinced the keenest interest in educational matters, stepped into the breach and offered one of his fields for the purpose. This was accepted, and the school was built and re-opened as a National School on the 6th May, 1878. Mr. M'Crystal continued teaching till he resigned in 1895, when he was succeeded by Mr. Thomas Teany, who died in 1905. During the reigns of these teachers the school had a splendid record—turning out many brilliant scholars—amongst them Mr. Hugh O'Neill, brother of Mr. Patrick O'Neill, Ballymulderg, now one of the foremost barristers in the United States, and who is also a nephew of Mr. Louis Smyth. Since Mr. Teany's death the school has been under the principalship of Mrs. O'Kane. The manager is the Rev. O. M'Eleavy, P.P., Moneymore, and this learned and esteemed cleric has spared neither time nor money to help in the needs of the school which is now in a flourishing condition.

In 1849 there was an additional school in this townland, and was attended by both males and females, and the average attendance was 26. The salary amounted to £9:—£5 from Lord Londonderry and Sir Robert Bateson; £2 from the Scholars, and £2 value of house and land. At the sale of the estate the school was handed over to Satersland Congregation, but since then it has ceased to exist—due to a number of children coming into the town schools and to emigration.

Ballyronan School. When the deputation from the Salters' Company visited this school in 1849, they found there were 40 males and 28 females on the rolls, with an average attendance of 40, and the salary amounted to £8—viz., £5 from Lord Londonderry and Sir Robert Bateson, and £3 from the scholars. It was under the Church Education Society, and the school building was in good order and well situated. At that period there was also a female school on the rolls, of which there were 34 pupils, with an average attendance of 25. The salary was larger than that recorded as received by the principal of the mixed school—being £11. The schools seemed to have been well conducted. The schools were evidently amalgamated in 1858, as in December of that year we find it was opened as a National School. The present teachers are Mr. J. Keatley, principal, and Miss A. Clarke, assistant, and the school is in a flourishing condition.

Lisnamorrow School, in 1849, had 43 males and 24 females on the roll, with an average attendance of 25. The salary amounted to £15 14s 0d—viz., £5 from the trustees of the Salters' Estate; £4 4s 0d from the clergy-men of the Woods Parish; £2 10s 0d from the Church Education Society, with which it was in connection, and £4 from the scholars. The school building was then too confined, and a separate building seemed to be required in order to divide the boys from the girls. The Salters' Company evidently erected a new building for this school is the only one of the three belonging to the Woods Parish that possesses the Salters' Coat of Arms. It was re-opened as a National School in 1872, under a Miss Hannah Clarke as teacher. The present teachers are Mrs. P. A. Keatley, principal, and Miss A. Woodend, junior assistant, and the school is in a very thriving condition. The deputation of the Salters visited in 1849 all the schools mentioned in these sketches, and considered it incumbent on them to bestow £22 10s 0d as a token of approbation amongst the several principals. They also added a sum of £14 for distribution amongst the scholars to encourage them in their studies.

Drumrainey National School. The present school buildings were erected by the Salters' Company in 1864. Prior to that date the building which served as a school was situated down the lane convenient to "Willowbank" Cottage. It was an old thatched house belonging to a man called Corbett. The school was held in one "end," and when that portion required repair, the scholars were transferred to the other "end." The date when it was erected is not known, nor are the names of all the teachers remembered. But so far as an old pupil of the school, resident in the district, can throw his memory back, he recollected hearing of two teachers who preceded Master Hughes, the last teacher

of the old, and first of the new school—viz., Masters Mellon and Devlin. He tells of the many tussles which occurred during the winter time to obtain a seat on the "chair of state," which consisted of the stump of a tree situated close to the fire. It seems that so "hot" did the struggles for possession become that the master was forced to consign the chair to the flames. He further mentions that every pupil was obliged to bring, during winter, two turf each morning as his contribution to the heating of the schoolroom; and so watchful an eye did the master keep to see that each pupil carried out his obligation, that when he detected an erring one he immediately called out—"James, come and put your turf in the box?"—and it is said that rather than be called out publically on a second occasion, any turf stack that lay in the path of the pupil was commandeered to supply the deficiency.

Tales are told of pupils delaying along the way to school to have a game of marbles, and so exciting did the games become that it required a stroke of a hazel rod from the hand of the master to remind them of the fact that they should have been in school.

As already stated, Master Hughes was the first teacher of the present school, and after long and faithful services he retired. A complete list of the teachers is not locally extant, but amongst those who did duty were Miss Mason, Miss Redfern (now Mrs. Crawford, principal of Kiltcronaghan), Miss Henry and Mr. John Keightley. At this time the attendance at the school was so low that it was struck off the National Board List. Miss Gilmore (daughter of Mr. Richard Gilmore, Luney, ex-master of the workhouse) was appointed by the late Prebendary Jordan, D.D., manager, and after a short time she had the school put under capitation. Miss Gilmore died in 1893, and Mrs. Speers—the present teacher (then Miss Mahwinney)—who was acting as substitute for Miss Gilmore, was appointed, and succeeded in having it restored to the permanent list as a National School, and her sister—now Mrs. Anderson—was appointed J.A.M. She subsequently resigned, and the present J.A.M., Miss Overend, took up duty.

The Loop National School is next to Ballymulderg—the second oldest in the locality. It was situated in the old chapelyard, convenient to the present site, with the teacher's residence underneath. A Mr. Devlin, who taught about 80 years ago, was the first teacher, and was a good Latin scholar. A number of the clergy of the Dioceses of Armagh, Down and Connor, and Derry, and professional men received their early training

with him, including Rev. Father Larkin, Mark McGuckin, James Quinn, John Quinn, and Drs. Bell, Smyth, etc. Mr. Devlin was succeeded by Mr. H. Conwell, who emigrated to Australia, and Mr. Agnew was appointed. In 1849 there were 39 males and 25 females on the rolls, with an average of 32, and the salary from the National Board was £10 per annum, with £2 12s 3d from the scholars. The present school was built by local funds in a part of the grounds attached to the new Chapel, by the Rev. P. Quinn, P.P., in 1861. Mr. Agnew was transferred from the old school to the new, and during his tenure of office he turned out many talented men, including Messrs. Louis Smyth, Francis Scullan, merchants, and Mark M'Ivor, James Agnew and John Murphy, excise officers; Messrs. Gillespie, teachers, etc., and the Rev. W. Conwell, etc. Mr. Agnew was succeeded by the present successful teacher, Mr. Charles Monaghan, who was appointed in 1882 by the Rev. Thomas Larkin, P.P., who became manager in 1874. During his term as principal, the school has maintained its high standard, and is in a flourishing condition. Amongst those who have been taught by Mr. Monaghan in their primary course at The Loop are Rev. J. Smyth, O.P., and Rev. N. Harbison, Passionist, Ardoyne. Mr. H. O'Neill, nephew of Mr. L. Smyth, completed his monitorial course, and is now one of the leading lights at the American Bar. Mr. Teany, late teacher of Ballymulderg National School, served his term of monitorship in The Loop school, and received his appointment from the Rev. Father Larkin, and in addition the following obtained places in the training colleges:—Messrs. T. Devlin, P. Malone, Charles Monaghan, and John Monaghan, under-graduate R.U.I. The present manager, Rev. O. McEavey, P.P., is most solicitous for keeping the school in proper repair.

In 1849, in addition to the National Schools, there was a very successful Parochial Sunday School in Magherafelt, under the superintendence of Mr. James Duncan. It seems there were 177 males and 188 females on the rolls, with an average attendance of 300. The children assembled at the Court-house, and the number of teachers were 13 males and 14 females. The school was closed each year at the latter end of December, and opened the 1st Sunday in March. The school was supported by an annual subscription of £20 from the trustees of the estate, and by strict economy the managers were enabled to support the school and also keep up a library.

The Union of Magherafelt, which occupies one-third of the County, was formed by order of the Poor-Law Commissioners, dated 25th November, 1839, and included only twenty-four divisions—the Swateragh Division not being included in the Union when first formed. The first election of guardians took place on the 20th December, 1839, and the following were elected:—

Magherafelt Division—John Duncan and John Walker.
 Ballymoghlan—John Caldwell.
 The Loop—John Archer.
 Salterstown—James Gausson.
 Castledawson—John Graves and James Shiels.
 Bellaghy—Andrew Lecky and Thomas Ekin.
 Moneymore—John Scott.
 Maghera—David Thompson and Matthew Lytle.
 Gulladuff—John Downing.
 Rocktown—James Henry.
 Carnamoney—Alexander Patterson.
 Tullykeeran—James M'Kenna.
 Baneran—Hugh Hagan.
 Springhill—Henry Thompson.
 Clady—Richard Hunter.
 Inniscarn—David Kenning.
 Moneyhaw—James Stanton.
 Brackaghsievegallion—John Mears.
 The Six Towns—Neal M'Kelvey.
 Ballyronan—David Gausson.
 Tobermore—Samuel M'Kane.
 Draperstown—James Getty.
 Desertmartin—Wm. Patterson.
 Lissan Upper—James Conlan.

All the elected guardians were present except David Kenning.

The first meeting was held on the 2nd January, 1840, in the Town Hall, Magherafelt, and in addition to the elected guardians, there were present—Messrs. Rowley Millar, J.P.; Andrew Spotswood, J.P.; John Stevenson, J.P.; John R. Miller, J.P.; Robert L. Mauleverer, J.P.; John Hill, J.P.; John G. Lapentier, J.P., as ex-officio guardians. Mr. Rowley Millar, J.P., was elected chairman, Mr. Andrew Spotswood, vice-chairman, and Mr. John Stevenson, deputy vice-chairman.

The salary of the Clerk was fixed at £40, and there were five applicants for the position—all from Magherafelt—viz., William Thompson, Richard James, Bernard M'Guckin, Joseph Brown and Joshua Adams. Mr. Richard James was elected.

The Northern Bank was appointed treasurer of the Union. They offered $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on current account, and to charge nothing for advances, as against the Belfast Bank's offer of 3 per cent. on credit balance, and 5 per cent. on advances.

At this meeting the Assistant Commissioner appointed by the Poor-Law Commissioners—Mr. Clements—informed the

guardians that the Commissioners proposed to add Swateragh division to the Union. This was unanimously agreed to, and Messrs. Jacob Moore and Neal Collins had the honour of being its first representatives.

The order of the Poor-Law Commissioners directed that until the workhouse was fit for the reception of the Poor, the guardians were to hold one ordinary meeting at least in every four weeks, and it was agreed to hold the meetings in the Town Hall.

The meetings of the Board of Guardians were not held regularly until the Workhouse was built, but as occasion required. Sometimes twice monthly, and at other times once monthly. At the second meeting which was held on the 13th February, 1840, it was resolved that Sergeant Armstrong, the caretaker of the Town Hall, provide fires for the guardians meetings, for which 1s per day was to be allowed, in addition to 1s per day for attendance.

It was also resolved that for the proper valuation of the rateable property within the Union, it was expedient that copies of the Government Valuation, with the red lines denoting the quality of each description of soil, and the Field Books corresponding thereto be procured at the least possible expense, and furnished to the valuator or valutors for their information, but as those documents were not sufficient in themselves to obtain the valuation required by law, it was expedient to advertise for competent persons to undertake the work, and advertisements were ordered to be inserted in the DUBLIN GENERAL ADVERTISER, ULSTER TIMES, BELFAST CHRONICLE, and DERRY SENTINEL, with the result that Samuel Eason, of Newtownlimavady, and James M'Gowan, Moneyguiggy, were appointed to make the valuation at the remuneration of £1 7s 6d per each thousand acres, or £210 gross, the valuation to be completed within nine months. In addition, they were to be allowed 10s per day for attending at the hearing of appeals in case their valuation was sustained, but no remuneration whatever if the valuation was decreased. Circulars were sent to each owner and occupier acquainting them of the valuation being made, and asking them to give the valutors every assistance. On the 12th March a valuation committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Andrew Spotswood, James Henry, John Walker, John Duncan, John Lapentier, J. Rowley Miller, and John Mauleverer, to superintend proceedings of valuation, and to hear complaints. At the same meeting it was decided to have a workhouse erected capable of accommodating 900 persons; the Assistant Commissioners stating that the Commissioners were in treaty with the Salters' Co. for a lease in perpetuity of a site at a nominal rent, and arrangements made for raising the rent to the full

value in the event of the building ceasing to be used as a workhouse. Several of the guardians visited the site and declared it to be a most eligible one. Messrs. Gausson and Dunca made a valuation of the ground for the workhouse as follows:—

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| To Mr. Boyd | £29 16 6 |
| Wm. Ferguson | 12 0 0 |
| Co. Cess, Spring, 1840 | 0 8 0 |
| | <hr/> |
| | £42 4 6 |

and a paying order was made out for that amount, and on the 9th July an application for a loan of £8,100 was made to the Exchequer Bill Loan Commissioners. The tender of Mr. John Millar, of Newtownards, to build the workhouse within 15 months, for £6,600, was accepted on the 2nd May, and a Mr. Leonard Williams was appointed Clerk of Works at £2 2s 0d per week.

The first annual meeting was held in the Town Hall on 1st April, 1841, when the chairmen already in office were re-elected. On the 8th April the proposal of Mr. William Hastings, Magherafelt, to make a ditch round the workhouse at 6s per Irish perch was accepted. The making of the bedsteads, tables and forms was entrusted to a Draperstown man—Bernard Murray—at a cost of 137 11s 0d, while the supplying of the clothing, at £398 13s 11d, and bedding, at £285, was secured by Thomas Greer, Belfast. It was subsequently ascertained that some of the clothing and bedding articles were not in accordance with the sample, and the sum of £85 5s 5d was deducted from the amount of the contract. Alexander Hutchinson secured the carpenter work at £142 0s 9d; John M'Guckin, the cooper work, at £14 6s 6d, and Felix Keenan, the smith's work, at £6 4s 6d.

The salaries of the intern officers were fixed as follows:—Master, £20; matron, £25; schoolmaster, £20; Schoolmistress, £15, and Porter £10, with uniform, consisting of blue frock coat, waistcoat, trousers and hat—coat to have red collar and cuffs and gilt buttons. There were also 41 chairs ordered for the boardroom—one of them to be an arm-chair stuffed for the accommodation of the chairman. This chair is still in use, but only as an ordinary one, it having been deposited from its high estate during the chairmanship of the late Mr. Campbell Gausson, J.P. The first officers were Robert Carse, Newtownards, master; Mrs. Carse, his wife, matron; Benjamin Beatty, schoolmaster; Miss Ann Montgomery, schoolmistress, and James M'Guiggan, porter. Dr. John Stuart Vesey was appointed medical officer at £40 a year. These appointments were made on the 25th November, 1841. On the 20th January, 1842, a rate of 1s in the £ was struck on all the electoral divisions, and instructions were given that it was not to be collected till the workhouse was opened.

The rate collectors appointed were, for the Magherafelt District—John Archer, jun. Draperstown District—Peter Duffy, jun. Maghera District—James Bradley. Bellaghy District—Wm. Tomb.

A committee consisting of Messrs. A. Spotswood, J.P.; J. Duncan, J. Walker, G. Macarthur, and John Caldwell was appointed to have supplied whatever furniture and utensils necessary for the reception of the inmates, and to secure a supply of turf, and the porter to attend to keep up fires in the officers' quarters.

The officers arrived on the 17th February, 1842, and directions were given to have them supplied with necessary provisions, etc.

The successful contractors for those articles were:—Mrs. Margaret M'Lernon, Magherafelt—Bread at 2½d per lb.; Mr. Thomas M'Fall, Magherafelt—Potatoes 3½d per stone, new milk 2d per quart, oatmeal 12s 6d per cwt., oat straw £1 10s 0d per ton, white soap £2 per cwt., and dipped candles 6s 2d per dozen lbs. Messrs. William Gausson's tender for best Whitehaven coal at £1 5s 0d per ton was accepted.

The workhouse was declared fit for the reception of inmates on the 10th March, 1842, and on the following day fourteen persons were admitted, and an Adam Diekey, of Aghagaskin, was the first person whose name was entered on the register. The first meeting of the board, held in the workhouse, was on the 24th March, 1842.

The Commissioners notified the appointment of three chaplains at £30 each, viz.—

Rev. Thomas Twigg—Established Church.

Rev. James Wilson—Presbyterian.

Rev. J. Quinn, P.P.—Roman Catholic.

Wednesday was appointed the visiting day of persons wishing to see the workhouse, between the hours of one and three o'clock, and Tuesday, between the hours of ten and twelve o'clock for relatives of inmates. This latter was altered to the last Tuesday in each month.

The tender of James M'Gowan and Thomas A. Dixon to supply buttermilk at one shilling and twopence per score was accepted.

The guardians resolved not to place the workhouse schools under any society.

They also directed the visiting committee to procure 20 spinning wheels, 2 reels and 2 pairs of wool cards, together with a sufficient supply of tow and wool, in order that the female paupers might be set to work. They further directed that 50 pairs of girth web shoes be purchased from David Graham at 11d per pair; 50 pairs of brogues (without nails) from Wm. Henry, and 24 pairs of pumps for women from Wm. Henry. At the subsequent meeting—21st April, 1842—the tender of Thomas Leacock, of Magherafelt, to supply

the spinning wheels at 10s. each, and that of John Tobhill, of Magherafelt, for the supply of wool at one shilling per lb. was accepted. The guardians also accepted the tender of John Moody for the erection of the piers and gates at the entrance to the workhouse.

Mr. Richard James, the clerk, died on the 17th November, 1842, and Mr. Robert A. Duncan, Magherafelt, became the second clerk on the 8th December, 1842.

It can quite easily be understood that the carrying out of a system entirely novel to the people of the country, at that time, required a great deal of tact and firmness, and naturally the duties of the intern officials, especially those of the master and matron, were laborious, and at times irksome. At the same time they received the utmost sympathy and support from the guardians, who, however, were kept pretty tight to the mark by the Poor-Law Commissioners, but, on the whole, everything seemed to run quite smoothly. The duties of the guardians were confined within certain limits, and did not assume the responsibility which is, at the present period, thrown upon them. To-day it would be considered novel for the master to make applications to the Board for inmates to be allowed out for several days for various purposes, but at first this was the rule. Several inmates were allowed out to see their wives, and others to see their husbands. An old man named John Graham was allowed out for three days to enable him to collect debts due him, and to write a letter to Canada. John Stewart was allowed out to see a brother who resided at The Loop, and who was in a dying state, and from whom he expected a legacy. An old woman named M^{rs} Murray got out for the purpose of disposing of some manure she had prior to entering the workhouse; while another woman was granted leave to release a spinning wheel which had been in the "paw" since she became an inmate. Two other women were also allowed out to renew pawn tickets, and two men named Tom Smyth and John M^{rs} Guckin, who had been well conducted in the house, were granted three days' leave to "breathe the fresh air and see their friends"; while a Patrick Mackle was granted two weeks' leave for the benefit of his health. The guardians, however, were very jealous of their property, as they declined to allow a man named Francis M^{rs} Guiro to take a wooden leg out with him.

The diet adopted was not nearly as liberal or varied as at present enjoyed. It consisted of 6 ozs. oatmeal and half a pint of butter-milk for breakfast, 3 lbs. potatoes and half a pint of butter-milk for dinner, and for supper, 3 ozs. oatmeal made into gruel. This was what was called house diet—for men, women and children above nine years. After some time the working men did not consider it sufficient to enable them to faithfully carry

out their daily task, and applied to the guardians for a more substantial menu, and they were awarded with the injunction that if they made any further complaint they would be turned out of the house. Subsequently, however, the master reported that he had given the inmates a nice treat, in the shape of the addition of a little pepper mixed with the salt for dinner; that it was greatly relished, and cost about one penny per day. The master's action was looked upon with favour by the guardians, and no further complaints were heard for some time. As the first Xmas after the establishment had been opened approached, the guardians considered it their duty to make the lot of the inmates as happy as possible, and did all in their power to leave happy memories of the first Xmas day in the workhouse. To enable this to be fully realised, they ordered the master to purchase 180 lbs. of meat, at 3d per lb., and at the following meeting the master intimated that he had faithfully carried out their wishes, and at the same time saved a halfpenny per lb. The customary congratulations were extended to him. The guardians little thought that trouble would subsequently arise from this act of kindness on their part, but before the following Easter passed they had an unpleasant example in the shape of an application from twelve able-bodied women for some kind of a treat at Easter, otherwise they would shake the dust of the institution off their feet. The guardians, however, rose to the occasion, refused the application, and directed the master, in case he saw any signs of trouble brewing, to discharge the applicants. This had the desired effect, and the joyous season passed peacefully over.

Mr. Beatty, schoolmaster, resigned on the 3rd November, 1842, and on the 8th December a Samuel Neely was appointed. He evidently did not find the establishment very congenial, as he resigned on the 22nd December, and on the 29th December a David Waugh was elected.

In January, 1843, the following rate was struck on the several electoral divisions:—Magherafelt, 10d in the £; Ballymoghna, 6d; The Loop, 10d; Salterstown, 1s; Ballyronan, 1s; Castledawson, Bellaghy, Clady, Rocktown, Gulladuff, Maghera, Tullykeeran, Carnamoney, Draperstown, Buncran, Six Towns, Lissan Upper, Moneyhaw, Springhill, B.S. Gallion, Inniscarn and Swateragh, 6d each; Tobermore, 1s; Moneymore, 8d, and Desertmartin, 1s.

The want of an hospital for the treatment of infectious diseases was very much felt, and the Guardians suggested to the Poor-Law Commissioners that the male idiot ward which was not occupied, be converted into an hospital. This suggestion did not find favour with the Authorities, and on the 21st September, 1843, it was resolved to rent a small

house convenient to the workhouse, belonging to Mr. John Walsh, Magherafelt, and fit it up as a temporary fever hospital. This was carried into effect on the 28th September, 1843, and four persons were admitted on that date, a Biddy Conway being placed in charge of it.

David Waugh, the schoolmaster, resigned on 4th May, 1843, and on the 29th June, 1843, a Wm. Stange was elected.

The tender of Mr. Wm. Miller to supply men's shoes at 4s 9d per pair; women's at 2s 11d, and boys' at 2s 10d, was accepted on 26th January, 1843.

In order to stimulate home industry, the guardians decided in 1843 to have the house supplied with Irish coal, but on the report of the master that it was very dear at half the price of English coal, it was decided to discontinue the supply.

So economical did the guardians manage the affairs of the Union that no rate was necessary to be struck for the year 1844.

Owing to a great number of husbands deserting their wives and families, and mothers deserting their children, thus leaving them chargeable on the rates, the clerk and master were instructed to prepare a list of such persons, and have it circulated throughout the police stations in Ireland, and also some of the Scotch towns, offering a reward of £1 1s 0d for their apprehension. In some instances this method had the desired effect.

In order to keep the female inmates fully employed, a quantity of wool was purchased, and it was spun into drugget—the wool being dyed previous to the operation—the looms being placed in the male and female idiot wards. Mats were also made by the male inmates.

The outside wood and iron work of the institution was painted in 1844 by a James Armstrong, Magherafelt, for £14 5s 0d, the guardians providing the material. He also undertook to put in each broken pane for the sum of one halfpenny.

It was agreed that the boys should be instructed in weaving, and for that purpose two looms were purchased from James Armstrong, Magherafelt, at £3 10s 0d each, and a James M'Elderry was appointed the instructor, and his hours were from 7 a.m. till 6 p.m. each week day. On the 8th August, 1844, it was decided to erect a fever hospital capable of accommodating forty beds, and on the 24th October following, the tender of Alexander M'Cormack, Castledawson, was accepted at £506, and the first stone was laid on the 24th February, 1845.

The Fever Hospital was opened for the reception of patients on the 1st January, 1846, and a certificate from a clergyman or a medical officer was necessary for admission. Dr. J. S. Vesey was appointed first medical officer of the Fever Hospital at a salary of £20—making a total salary of £60 for the workhouse and hospital. A pauper inmate, Elizabeth Butler, was appointed nurse in hospital at £15 a year.

The Guardians, after mature consideration, decided to have the footwear of the inmates made in the house, and accepted a proposal from Oliver Peacock, of Magherafelt, to make the boots and teach the boys the trade at the remuneration of 2s 6d per day.

The want of a proper water supply caused great inconvenience, and the guardians agreed to have a well sunk in the male idiot ward, and the proposal of Edward Donaghy, Magherafelt, to do the work at 4s 4d per perch was accepted. Subsequently the Poor-Law Commissioners furnished a design of a suitable pump—the erection of which was entrusted to Alex. M'Cormack, of Castledawson, for a sum of £27—he undertaking to keep it in order off five years.

The present day guardians and the general public would consider it a novel proceeding to have the banns of their intended marriage read at three consecutive meetings of the guardians, yet this was the custom up to 1864.

On the recommendation of the master, it was ordered that a lamp with rush light be placed each night in the dormitories of the old men and women, female idiot ward, and female children. This novelty was of short duration, it being dispensed with after two months' trial.

The idea of general or union rating for all expenses is not new, for in the year 1846 it was put forward with great force at the meeting of the guardians on the 5th March, but was doomed to failure owing to the then existing law. It remained, however, for the Local Government Act, 1908, to consummate that idea.

Insubordination in the house at this time became acute, and the ordinary methods of punishment for this offence not proving efficacious, the guardians, in face of a remonstrance by the Commissioners, ordered that each inmate guilty of the offence (women included) be compelled to break stones. It had the desired effect, and that after a short period it was relaxed.

An ambulance for the conveyance of patients to the fever hospital was provided by a James Cassidy, of Maghera, for the sum of £18.

THE TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

These little sketches in connection with education would not be complete without some reference to the Technical School, which has been provided. The school was opened so recently as 1908, that it will be sufficient to mention a few of the facts connected with its establishment in Magherafelt, which has the proud boast that it possesses the first provincial Technical School in Ireland. This is principally due to the efforts of Mr. Louis Smyth, who can proudly claim the title of Father of Technical Education in this district. On the 1st December, 1904, Mr. Smyth, who was then a member of the Magherafelt District Council, moved that the council urge the County Council to put into operation—not alone in the district, but in the County—the technical part of the agricultural system. This was the beginning of what has turned out to be an excellent and successful work. On the 19th December, 1907, Mr. Smyth and Mr. Graham, J.P., who is also an enthusiastic member of the technical committee, were nominated, on behalf of the District Council, to discuss with and advise the County Committee as to the best means of allocating and administering the funds available for technical and agricultural purposes.

The efforts put forward had such desired effect that in the month of October, 1908, the present scheme of Technical Education was launched in Co. Derry, and on the 20th of November following the first school was opened in Magherafelt in portion of the premises now occupied by Messrs. McCausland Bros., in Market Street, under the following

committee—viz., Col. J. J. Clark, D.L.; Messrs. Samuel Porter, J.P.; Robert M'Guckin, solicitor; Louis Smyth, Thomas Graham, J.P.; Joseph Davison, John Park, W. J. Hamilton, Thomas Daley, J.P. Col. Clarke was appointed chairman. The District Council were most sympathetic and passed the necessary vote for a rate of one farthing in the £, and amongst those who strongly advocated the great benefits of technical education were Mr. Davison, Mr. Teady M'Erlean, and the late Mr. Samuel Porter, J.P.

Mr. Adamson, manager of the local branch of the Northern Bank, very generously contributed out of the Taylor Trust the rent of the school buildings yearly.

The scheme, under the directorship of the painstaking and energetic secretary and principal, Mr. W. D. Cousins, and his excellent staff of teachers, became so successful, that it was considered imperatively necessary to have new premises, and on the 2nd January, 1914, the present school buildings—one of the finest in Ulster—were opened by Mrs. Barrie—wife of Mr. H. T. Barrie, M.P. for North Derry, and Chairman of the County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. The school is continuing its successful career, under the guidance of the following committee—Messrs. W. Adamson (chairman), John Boden, J.P.; Joseph Davison, Thomas Graham, J.P.; W. J. Hamilton, Lawrence Higgins, J.P.; Thomas Larkin, Teady M'Erlean, Charles O'Hara, J.P.; John Park, and Louis Smyth.

THE POOR LAW.

The relief of the poor distressed "in mind, body or estate," by the more prosperous members of the community, has for generations been recognized as a Christian duty. Almsgiving appears to have been inculcated by the most primitive nations as a religious observance. Some of the European nations of antiquity made provision for the poor as a matter of State policy. It is said that Athens at one time boasted that it had no citizen in want, "nor did any disgrace the nation by begging." Up to the middle of the 14th century, pauperism was treated as a crime in England, and it was not till 1383 that any public provision was made for the poor. The principle of compulsory assistance was introduced in the reign of Henry the Eighth. In 1601 an Act was passed which formed the basis of all subsequent Poor-Law legislation in England. By it every inhabitant of every parish was taxed for the relief of the poor. In addition, the Act required that in every parish, certain parties called churchwardens and overseers, with the consent of justices of the peace, should raise money for the relief of the impotent, and likewise raise a convenient stock of flax, hemp, wool, thread, iron and other necessary ware and stuff, to set to work poor persons who had no means to maintain them. They were not, however, to purchase or hire a workhouse. This Act did not contemplate giving either food or money to able-bodied persons, except in return for work. But it appears that when persons, apparently destitute, applied to overseers for work, if they (the overseers) had neglected to take measures to supply work, they gave money without requiring any work in return. And this appears to have been the common practice towards the close of the 17th Century. The consequence was that on increase of the poor-rates took place, and there was general dissatisfaction with the mode in which they were expended. In enumerating the causes of the increase, a Mr. Richard Dunning, in 1698—in a pamphlet on the subject—stated "That such as are maintained by parish pay seldom 'drink any other than the strongest ale—house beer, and seldom eat any bread save 'what is made by the finest wheat flour sold 'by common bakers.' And in reference to the excessive parish pay to the poor, as having greatly increased extravagance and idleness in them and discouraged industry in others—says "the allowance commonly 'given to persons maintained by a parish 'being three times as much as an honest 'labourer, who with his wife maintains three 'children, can afford himself."

An Act of William and Mary, passed in 1691, provided that a register should be kept of all persons relieved, who were to be examined by the vestry, as evil had arisen out of the unlimited power given to the overseers, who gave relief "for their own private ends."

Many efforts were made during the reign of the first three Georges to remedy abuses.—one provision being that the churchwardens and overseers of a parish, with the consent of a majority of the inhabitants, were empowered to purchase or hire workhouses, in which they might keep, maintain and employ all poor persons, and persons refusing to be kept and maintained in them were declared not to be entitled to relief. Thus the workhouse system, which was so successful in Holland, was introduced.

In 1832 a Commission was appointed to inquire into the administration of the Poor-Law in England, and the evidence brought out the fact that the integrity, industry, independence and domestic virtue of the lower classes were, in some places, almost extinct. A great source of evil arose through granting relief to the able-bodied in aid of wages. In 1834 the Commission reported that they found the administration opposed to the letter and spirit of the law, and destructive of the welfare of the community. They laid down the principle that the condition of the pauper ought to be below the lowest condition of the independent labourer, because every penny spent in making his condition more desirable was a bounty on indolence and vice. In 1833 the Poor-Law Act was extended for the first time to Ireland, and was moulded principally on the English Act. Prior to that period the duty of looking after the poor devolved on the vestries, and each year a certain amount was levied by those bodies for their relief.

In 1724 the sum of forty shillings was directed to be levied off the Parish of Magherafelt, "for the maintenance of a child left upon the Parish." In 1758 the sum of £3 was ordered "to be apportioned and levied off the Parish, for the support of an exposed infant, and that it be sent to the Foundling Hospital in Dublin." In 1798 the sums of £2 2s 0d and £5 13s 9d were assessed for the support of Widows M'Geah and Gillespie, and in 1799 Widow M'Geah's amount was increased to £2 5s 0d. In addition, "beggars" were licensed and registered, and each of these received a badge showing they were authorised to seek alms. In 1832 Wednesday was the recognized day for begging in Magherafelt, now it is Friday.

The guardians decided, in the interests of economy, to have the bread for use of the inmates baked in the workhouse, and accordingly they had an oven built in the house. It is said the present strong-room in which the Register Books of births, deaths and marriages are deposited, was the place where the oven was situated. John Wilson, of Magherafelt, was appointed baker on the 7th January, 1847, at the remuneration of 2s 9d per cwt. for baking coarse bread, and 2s 6d per cwt. for baking bread of first quality. The first delivery of bakers first flour, and also of second quality, was taken in equal proportions from Muckamore and Coalisland mills—a load each. This system continued till August, 1851, when the practice of taking tenders for supplying bread was reverted to.

Owing to the failure of the potato crop in 1846, distress became very severe. In February, 1847, the number of inmates was 900, and in the anticipation that this number would be increased, the guardians decided to appoint an assistant master at £1 per month with lodgings and rations, and James Bell, of Luney, was elected.

At this period a Matilda Jane Beare, of Aughrim, was appointed nurse tender of the infirmary at a salary of £8 a year. She, however, was found incompetent and was discharged after a month's trial.

The distress became so acute, and the number of applications so numerous, that the guardians, in order to cope successfully with the demand for admission, decided to meet on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays each week. For the week ended 18th February, 1847, there were 118 admitted, and 175 persons were refused admission. On Saturday night, 20th February, there were 1,000 inmates—22 of which were in the fever hospital, and on the following Saturday there were 1,014 inmates, and 126 were refused admission. As the workhouse was built to accommodate only 900 persons, it became necessary to build temporary accommodation, and Richard Donnelly, of Magherafelt, was the successful contractor for the erection of two wooden sheds each 80 feet long—one alongside the male and the other alongside the female yard walls, at a cost of £134 18s—which were to be erected within six weeks, and when erected, were filled in a very short time.

To add to the already enormous difficulties fever broke out. The medical officer, Dr. Vesey; the master, the schoolmistress, assistant master, infirmary and fever nurses caught the disease. Dr. Burke was appointed temporary medical officer. It is said he represented the Springhill division as a guardian, and resigned that position in June, 1847. James McCullough was appointed temporary assistant master, at the remuneration of 5s per day, and Bridget

Conway was appointed temporary fever nurse at 6s per week and rations. So rapidly did the fever spread that on the 8th April, 1847, there were 317 cases in the house, and on the 15th April the number reached 400. The master and fever Nurse Butler died, and two nurses from Belfast were employed at 10s 6d per week with rations. The Poor-Law Commissioners wrote that owing to the great number of fever cases they had applied to the Central Board of Health, and that body decided to send down Dr. Whistler to confer with the guardians. As an outcome it was resolved to build two large sheds, each 100 feet long, and the successful contractors were John Brown and Co., Belfast, the cost being £695. They were to be built within one month—the penalty for delay being £10 per day. The question of compounder and dispenser of medicine was next considered, and it was thought necessary to appoint a person to this office—Dr. McClatchy, of Castledawson, securing the appointment at £1 10s 0d. At this stage Dr. Bourke got temporary leave of absence, and Dr. Gordon was asked to act for him, which he did.

The distress throughout the union was met by the appointment of relief committees under the Temporary Relief Act which the Government found it necessary to pass. In each division a relief committee was formed, which distributed food, consisting principally of oatmeal and Indian meal (cooked) to poor people, and the sale of these commodities (cooked) to others. By this means the distress was, to a great extent alleviated, although a good deal of suffering and hardship occurred.

In order to assist the committees, and to cope with the destitution, five relieving officers were appointed, viz.—Alexander Morrison, Maghera; Robert George, Magherafelt; John Pollock, Bellaghy; James Henry, Draperstown, and Joseph Gibson, Moneymore. Subsequently when the distress was successfully coped with, the guardians resolved, on the 30th August, 1848, that the salaries of the relieving officers should cease—there being no out-door relief to distribute. Although they were to be continued in office—and when it again became necessary to give any out-door relief their salaries would re-commence. The relieving officers, to their credit be it said, agreed, but the Poor-Law Commissioners vetoed the proposal, holding that as they had been appointed officers, they were entitled to receive their salaries.

The distress appealed to the British public, and a relief association was formed, with temporary offices in Dublin, under the charge of Count Strzelecki. Under his guidance a sum of £118,000 was granted to relieve the dire necessity which existed, especially in the south and west—£41,349 being allocated to the County of Mayo. The



MR. THOMAS GRAHAM, J.P.



MR. CHAS. O'HARA, J.P., C.C.



MR. ROWLEY ELLIOTT, J.P.



MR. J. E. O'NEILL, J.P., C.C.



MR. LOUIS SMYTH.



MR. JOSEPH DAVISON.



MR. WM. HASTINGS,
Clerk of Union and District Council.

grants, of course, were made on the recommendation of the Poor-Law Commissioners, and special inspectors were appointed to assist in the proper administration of the funds. The Ulster four unions were assisted—viz., Ballycastle, Belfast, Cavan and Donegal, in the following respective amounts:—£10, £50, £300, £1,300.

The poundage rate found necessary to be assessed at this period in the Magherafelt union for the ordinary expenditure, and for the repayment of advances under the Temporary Relief Act, was made on the 2nd November, 1848, as follows:—Magherafelt, 3s 3d; Ballymoghagh, 4s; The Loop, 4s; Salterstown, 2s 3d; Ballyronan, 4s 6d; Castledawson, 2s 6d; Rocktown, 1s 5d; Bellaghy, 1s 3d; Clady, 6d; Gulladuff, 1s 6d; Maghera, 1s; Tullykeerin, 6d; Tobermore, 3s; Carnamoney, 9d; Drapers-town, 6d; Baneran, 8d; The Six Towns, 1s; Inniscairn, 6d; Desertmartin, 4s; Lissan Upper, 1s; Moneyhew, 8d; Springhill, 10d; Moneymore, 1s 2d; Brackaslievegallion, 1s 2s; Swateragh, 1s 6d.

Subsequently a bill was introduced in Parliament for a special rate to be assessed in aid of certain unions in Connaught and Munster. Opposition to this measure was very great in Ulster, and numerous petitions were forwarded to both Houses of Parliament against the measure. At the suggestion of the Magherafelt Board the then Lieutenant of Co. Derry called a public meeting of protest, which was held in Linnavady, and the then high sheriff, Mr. J. J. Clark, was directed to forward a petition against the proposed measure. Although the opposition was very great the Bill would seem to have been passed, and by order of the Poor-Law Commissioners a sum, amounting to £322,552 11s 0d was assessed on the 132 unions in Ireland—£1,880 11s 11d being the proportion which Magherafelt union was to contribute.

At this stage the clerk, Mr. R. A. Duncan, was appointed temporary inspector, and one of the vice-guardians of the Mohill Union, Co. Leitrim—the board of guardians of that union having been dissolved. The election of a successor to the clerkship became necessary, and John Steele, Andrew Brown, Robert George and Hugh M'Canney were the candidates—with the result that Mr. Steele (who had been acting as temporary clerk, and had been a candidate at the time Mr. Duncan was appointed) was elected by a large majority. James Johnston, of Tullykeeran, was also appointed porter, and Samuel M'Conamy, Tobermore, appointed baker, at the remuneration of £10 for three months.

In January, 1848, contracts were taken for the annual supplies of groceries, etc. The price paid for black tea was 4s 4d per

lb., and sugar 6d per lb. The contract for the supply of wool was secured by the Hon. and Rev. A. W. Pomeroy, rector of Dromore, Desertmartin, at 9d per lb.

In January, 1849, the number of inmates was 574, and a good deal of sickness prevailed. Dr. Vesey reported that there were 99 cases in the fever hospital and sheds—7 being affected with fever. There were also 73 in the infirmary, and dysentery and diarrhoea, with English cholera, prevailed to a great extent—there being 45 cases. Whooping cough had also appeared, and he advised that buttermilk and treacle, which were given to the inmates, were not fit articles of food at that time. At the following meeting the contractors for the supply of buttermilk appeared and agreed to supply new milk instead at 7d per gallon. Subsequently, on the recommendation of the medical officer, the male and female adults were ordered to be taken out for exercise outside the workhouse grounds for one hour twice weekly, in charge of the master and matron, and evidently fearing that love scenes might take place, the Commissioners directed that the men were not to be taken out at the same time as the females.

In order to place the means of bettering themselves in life, and at the same time to meet the demand for domestics, the Commissioners deputed Lieutenant Henry, R.N., emigration agent, to visit the workhouse and select the more suitable female orphans for emigration to Australia. He selected 24 persons, whose ages ranged from 14 to 19 years. The ship sailed from Plymouth on 17th July, 1848, and the emigrants were conveyed to Belfast, and from there shipped for Dublin—the cost per head from Belfast to Dublin being 5s. On arriving in Dublin they were conveyed by steamer to Plymouth. In January, 1849, one of the emigrants, Rachel M'Quade, wrote to her sister, who was an inmate, stating that she was in Adelaide, and was engaged as a servant at £10 for the first year. She also spoke in complimentary terms of the beauty of the country—her only regret being that there was no turf there.

The guardians next decided to keep a stock of pigs, as the disposal of the offal to persons in Magherafelt did not turn out as profitable as was expected. The necessity for piggeries was apparent, and Daniel Magee, of Moneymore, secured the contract for building them at £16 16s 0d.

Cholera, at this period, had made its appearance in Ireland, and on the recommendation of the Commissioners a committee was appointed to take the necessary steps to cope with it, should any cases occur in the union. Happily no outbreak took place, so far as official information is available.

Mr. Scott Lindsay succeeded David Waugh as master in 1849, and to assist him in the management of the farm and instruct the boys, Robert Smyth was appointed agriculturist. Mrs. Lindsay was also appointed matron, and Margaret Thompson, the fever hospital nurse, was replaced by a Mrs. Jane Spratt.

The new master and matron had a good deal of trouble with the women in the house, and the guardians were obliged to make an order that all refractory women have their hair cut. As this is women's crowning glory, it does not appear that it was found necessary to resort to this extreme measure—the women evidently settling down to their normal condition.

In January, 1850, there were seventy children in the schoolrooms under six years of age. Owing to this large number it was considered expedient to appoint an infant schoolmistress, and Miss Charles was appointed. The proper heating of the schoolrooms and house occupied the attention of the guardians for some time, and eventually they decided to have the day-rooms and schoolrooms heated with hot air, and a cooking apparatus erected, and Richard Robinson, of Belfast, secured the contract at £230. It did not, however, turn out satisfactory and was subsequently abandoned.

As a sample of the proficiency of some of the inmates, the master, in June, 1851, submitted to the guardians a web of Shambrey woven by them. The guardians considered it highly satisfactory.

In the same year a donkey was ordered to be purchased and a cart supplied. These did service for a couple of years, when the master was authorised to dispose of them, which he did for £3 10s 0d, and to have the donkey replaced by a pony. This latter cost £8, but was not considered suitable, and it was sold for £9, and a horse purchased at £11. The horse, however, did not turn out satisfactory, and the master was urged to get rid of him, but he pleaded for "yet a little further indulgence." This they granted, and one morning when the schoolmaster was working with the horse it fell on him, spraining his leg, and the master was obliged to part with the animal.

Small-pox broke out in 1851—the number of patients in hospital on the 26th June being 26. It was thought the disease was brought from Scotland. However, after strenuous exertions, the epidemic was successfully coped with.

John Deane, of Owenreagh, was appointed schoolmaster on the 13th November, 1851, and resigned in September, 1852. He evidently belonged to that class of grateful officials, who recognised and acknowledged

the support and consideration of his masters, as the following shows. The original is written in fine "copperplate" hand, which compensates for the weakness in the spelling.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN
OF THE BOARD OF GUARDIANS,
MAGHERAFELT UNION.

Gentlemen,—Being fully resolved on going out to Australia by the first opportunity that offers, I, with very submissive deference, humbly beg to tender my resignation of schoolmaster of this establishment, and hope you will have the goodness to accept it, and not being able to make you a temporal return for the many favours I received under your patronage, I will say that the fervent prayer of my soul is, that when you are resigning this body of sin, when you are quitting this vale of tears, this world of woe, that you may be received into that glorious habitation—the pleasures of which will never become irksome, and the loveliness of which will never grow dim or faded, but expand or shine more brilliantly, when this world is dissolved, and the axle of time grow rust, and cease to move no more."

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your humble, obedient servant,

JOHN DEANE.

Magherafelt Workhouse.
September 23, 1852.

Mr. Deane was succeeded by Alexander Smyth, of Ballymagnuigan, on 28th October, 1852.

Hugh Donnelly, of Magherafelt, was appointed mason on the 15th January, 1852, at 10s per week, and John McLaughlin, of Drumrainey, was appointed carpenter at the remuneration of 2s per day. At the meeting of the guardians on 18th March, 1852, Mr. Senior, Local Government Board Inspector, reported that this workhouse was the only one in the north where the guardians, though earnestly pressed by the medical officer, the Poor-Law Commissioner and himself, had refused to give the boys shoes, the consequence being that out of 34 boys now in school, 12 were lame from sore feet, and looked ill and miserable, and he requested the medical officer to report the number of the boys whose constitutions appeared to be impaired from confinement, the result of lameness; and he trusted that the Board would, during the summer, provide a stock of shoes previous to the cold weather coming on. The school, in point of health and appearance, was the most sickly in the north. Dr. Vesey, the medical officer, reported that he had always been of the opinion that the boys in the workhouse should be provided with shoes and stockings during the winter months. He also found cases of diarrhoea, bronchitis and scrofula during the winter which, he had no doubt, was greatly aggravated (if not caused) by want of sufficient

heat in the lower extremities. At the meeting of the Board on the 15th April, it was unanimously resolved that shoes and stockings be provided for the boys during the winter.

On the 29th April, 1852, a memorial to the Lord Lieutenant on behalf of Smith, Larkin and O'Brien was submitted to the Board for signature, but no action was taken.

At the meeting on the 3rd June, 1852, the proposal of James Morton, of Magherafelt, to supply fine bread at 1½d per lb., and coarse bread at 1½d per lb. was accepted. The previous contractors were the Hanlon Public Bakery Company, Magherafelt. At the same meeting the salary of the porter was increased to £12 10s 0d.

Owing to the guardians ceasing to grant out-door relief, the number of relieving officers was reduced to one—Mr. Pollock. There was no out-door relief given in 1858, and for the half-year ended September, 1864, the amount was only £1—the recipient belonging to the Bellaghy division. Mr. Pollock's salary was increased in February, 1864, from £50 to £60, but he did not enjoy it long, as on the 31st March, 1864, Mr. Robert Gilmore was appointed at a salary of £50, and he continued till the passing of the Local Government Amendment Act, when he resigned, after a faithful service of 35 years.

Mrs. Martha Jane Irwin, Newtownards, was appointed infirmiry nurse on the 8th September, 1853, but resigned after a fortnight's experience, and Miss Ann Charles (the infant schoolmistress in the workhouse) wrote accepting the position vacated by Mrs. Irwin, which was approved, and it was decided to attach the infant school to the female school.

In April, 1857, Rose Ann Barr, of Maghera, was appointed infirmiry nurse, and in the same month a complaint was made against Mrs. Spratt, the fever hospital nurse, that she could not hear properly, and therefore not able to attend to the wants of the patients. The matter was referred to the medical officer, who reported that Mrs. Spratt had always been a little deaf, but it did not interfere with the proper discharge of her duties, she being an efficient nurse.

The guardians were most jealous that the duties of the chaplains should be performed by themselves, or by one of their brethren, and not by any layman. In August, 1857, the chaplains' book contained an entry by Mr. Thomas Lowry, principal of the Fair Hill Schools, that he had officiated in the workhouse for the Rev. Alexander Montgomery. The guardians disapproved of Mr. Lowry being allowed to officiate, as he was not duly qualified to perform divine service.

John Esdale was appointed shoemaker, and James M'Atcer, tailor of the workhouse, in June, 1857.

So far as the records declare, the guardians have always been most fortunate in having excellent masters and matrons, and the cleanliness of the establishment has been very favourably reported upon. In 1857 a Captain Robinson, one of the Poor-Law Commissioners' Inspectors, reported that having paid the visit to the House, he found it in splendid order.

In October, 1857, the guardians subscribed to the fund for the relief of sufferers in India, and the sum of £168 was collected in the Union and forwarded by the clerk.

John Esdale, the tailor of the house, resigned in November, 1858, and a Samuel Brown, Killyboggan, was appointed successor at a salary of 1s 3d per day.

The following month Mrs. Spratt, the fever hospital nurse, died, and a Catherine Wilkinson, of Belfast, was appointed at a salary of £15 a year and rations. Although there was no out-door relief, granted by the guardians in 1859, Mr. John Pollock, relieving officer, was directed to attend the relief depots throughout the Union once every fortnight.

In January, 1860, Samuel Brown, the tailor, absented himself without permission, and was fined in the sum of 2s 6d. The following year Miss Mary Ann Hutchinson, of Ballynagowan, was appointed infirmiry nurse at £10 a year, but after being in office for some time the medical officer reported that Nurse Hutchinson was quite ignorant of her duties and unfit to perform them.

In August of same year portion of the dining-hall was separated from the remainder by a moveable partition. In this portion the Roman Catholic inmates worshipped, and in December following the guardians ordered that the inmates be allowed tea and bread for supper on Xmas night—the cost not to exceed £3.

In February, 1862, the Poor-Law Commissioners wrote to the guardians requesting to be furnished with the name of every town and village in the union in which a fuel committee had been established to assist the poor in obtaining fuel during the winter months. The guardians replied that they did not consider it necessary to appoint any committee.

The Rev. Charles King-Irwin, I.C. chaplain, resigned, and the Rev. James Hogan was appointed.

In 1863, Mr. Clarke, Magherafelt, auctioned the wheat growing on the workhouse farm for 4s 11d fees. In August of

same year the Registrar-General, Dublin, intimated to the guardians that the reading of the notices of marriages at their meetings was to cease, as the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act had been passed, and would come into force on the 1st January, 1864, and that a registrar office would require to be provided. The guardians requested the Poor-Law Commissioners to furnish them with a plan for a registrar office, to be erected in the female probationary ward. The Commissioners complied, and the tender of Mr. George R. Tipping, Castledawson, and Richard Donnelly, Magherafelt, to do the work for £88 10s 0d, was accepted. On the 19th November, 1863, Mr. Kilpatrick, builder, Coleraine, was appointed to inspect the fitting up of the registrar's office, and he recommended that two gables be erected in the porch of same—one in the front and one in the end, and that a front window be put in the office to correspond with those next the entrance door of the workhouse in order to preserve the uniformity of the building and to improve the light. This was approved, and the contractors were allowed £13 for the extra work. In August, 1863, Dr. Vesey, the medical officer, was granted one month's leave of absence, and Dr. Churchill, from Dublin, was appointed to discharge his duties.

Evidently the duties to be discharged by the members of the Royal Irish Constabulary, in 1865, were not as onerous or exacting as at present, as at that period it was the custom for the relieving officer to prepare notices for abatement of nuisances, and have them forwarded to the constabulary for service.

In the year 1869 fever again broke out, 29 cases being sent from the house to the hospital, which included the schoolmistress and assistant nurse, and in the month of May the number of cases had increased to 50.

In September following, Thomas Hepburn, who then resided in Bellaghy, was appointed tailor, and Mr. John Smyth, of Sprucebank, and afterwards of Magherafelt, was appointed rate collector.

In December of same year a resolution from the North Dublin Union was read, in which it was stated that absenteeism being the great evil of the country, the Prime Minister be called upon to grant a royal residence and a National parliament. The resolution was allowed to lie on the table.

The selection of members of the visiting committee in 1870 was delegated to the clerk, who was to select the members from the elected guardians—seven members to be noticed to attend the second two quarters, and those committees were to be in charge of an ex-officio guardian. In this year Wm. Bell, Magherafelt, was appointed tailor.

An application was also received from the newly constituted Gas Company to have gas introduced into the house. The guardians decided to do so, and resolved to pay one-half—not exceeding £15—of the expense of continuing a pipe to conduct the gas from the town to the door of the workhouse, and the proposal of Robert Green, of Magherafelt, to erect and complete gas pipes, fittings, etc., in the house and infirmary, including a lantern over entrance gate, and to keep the same in repair for twelve months, for £25, was accepted.

James M'Cracken, of Belfast, wrote offering to supply and erect a horizontal steam boiler to replace the old ones, and erect a chimney-stack (the stack in use being found unsuitable), for the sum of £175. This was accepted, and subsequently he was allowed £7 10s 0d for supplying a lightening conductor.

On the 9th February, 1871, as a result of an inquiry held by Mr. R. Hamilton (brother of the late Archdeacon Hamilton, of Dromore, Desertmartin), the master (Mr. Scott Lindsay), the matron (Mrs. Lindsay) the schoolmaster and schoolmistress were called upon to resign, and on the 2nd March, 1871, James Palmer, Magherafelt, was appointed master at a salary of £30 a year; Miss Isabella Walker, Coagh, matron, at £25 a year; John Silley (now Rev. John Silley, of London), schoolmaster, at £25, and Miss Ellen Brittain, schoolmistress, at £20.

The following year Mr. Palmer applied to the guardians to be allowed to keep his wife in the workhouse. The application was granted, subject to Mr. Palmer undertaking to pay £15 yearly.

James Aiken, of Ballyronan, was appointed tailor in succession to Mr. Thomas Hepburn, at the remuneration of 1s 6d per day.

At this period Dr. Dobbin, medical officer of the Maghera dispensary district, reported that an outbreak of small-pox occurred in Maghera—a man named Quigley having brought it from Glasgow, and ten persons living in the same street, having contracted the disease, the board appointed Col. Cassidy, Mr. Hugh Walker, and Mr. Archibald M'Fall as a committee to purchase a covered car to convey the small-pox patients to the hospital.

In 1873 Miss Garret, from the Lurgan union, was appointed infirmary nurse, and the contract for the supply of coal for that year was secured by Mr. James Sands, Magherafelt, at 31s 1d per ton.

Up till March, 1873, voting by ballot was permissible at the meetings of the guardians. This practice, however, was made illegal by an order of the Local Government Board dated 14th March.

In June the guardians granted the infirmiry nurse—Mary A. Hatchinson—a superannuation allowance of £8 annually, and in July the salary of the porter was increased from £12 10s 0d to £16.

In this year the union printer was Mr. John Leonard, who then resided in Magherafelt.

In November, 1873, the salaries of the schoolmaster was increased from £25 to £30, and that of the schoolmistress from £20 to £25 annually.

At the same meeting a month's notice was issued to fence the old burying-grounds which had been vested in the guardians. The order included the fencing of the old burying-ground in Broagh. Subsequently, however, this burying-ground was struck off the list of those for whom the guardians were appointed custodians.

In January, 1874, an inmate of the boys' school named Isaac Donaghy, absconded from the workhouse. He was apprehended and brought before the magistrates sitting in Petty Sessions, on the 11th February, and ordered to be sent to the Training Ship, Gibraltar—then stationed in Belfast Lough—and to be detained there for four years.

The amount of out-door relief distribution in 1875 was 5s weekly, there being two cases and three persons on the list.

Up to this period the hour at which the guardians met was 12 o'clock, but on the 2nd June, 1875, it was altered to 1 o'clock, at which hour it remained till the passing of the Local Government Act.

Mr. Palmer, the master, died on the 26th September, 1875, and on the 28th October, 1875, Mr. Henry Thompson, Magherafelt, was appointed.

So numerous had the tramps become, and so persistent were they in begging through the town, that the guardians passed a resolution requesting the police to put the law in motion against the practice of begging—such persons making the workhouse a lodging-house. The word of the guardians carried weight in those days, and prosecutions followed.

In this year caretakers were appointed for each of the burying-grounds, and rules framed for the grounds being kept in decent order.

The salary of the fever hospital nurse was also increased from £18 to £20 a year.

The powers conferred upon boards of guardians under the Nuisances Removal and Diseases Prevention Acts, 1848 and 1849, were found quite inadequate for the proper protection and care of the health of the people, and the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878,

which was moulded from the English Act, was passed on the 8th August, 1878, and the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act was passed on the 16th August, 1878, for the better provision respecting contagious and infectious diseases of cattle and other animals.

Mr. William Sandford, V.S., Moneymore, was the first inspector appointed under this Act. His appointment took place on December, 1878.

At the same meeting Mr. Hugh Atkinson, of Coolshinney, was appointed schoolmaster in room of Mr. John Silley, resigned.

The water in the pumps in Magherafelt caused the guardians a great deal of anxiety owing to the repeated outbreak of disease, and they decided to have samples from three of the pumps sent to Professor Leebody, Londonderry, for analysis. Mr. Robert Gilmore (who, under the Public Health Act, had been appointed sanitary sub-officer) was intrusted with the task of conveying the samples to Derry, and the expense of doing so amounted to £1 13s 6d, in addition to the fee of £2 to Professor Leebody. So particular were the guardians as to the receipt of the result of the analysis, that they directed Mr. Gilmore to proceed to Derry in order that he would receive the certificate of analysis from the hands of Professor Leebody, and guard it zealously until he delivered it safe and sound into the custody of the clerk. Nowadays we are content to trust to the post.

Miss Garret, who had been the nurse in charge of the infirmiry, resigned, and Mrs. Mary Kyle was appointed in 1875 at a salary of £20 a year. She was a very capable nurse and discharged her duties with a thoroughness that was highly commendable till 1891, when she resigned, and was succeeded by Miss A. H. Reid, who fulfilled the duties to the entire satisfaction of the guardians, the medical officer, and the patients, till 1898, when she was appointed to take charge of the fever hospital, and at present she is looked upon as one of the best nurses in the north of Ireland. Her predecessors in that position were Miss Ellen Nicholl, who had been appointed in 1862, died in 1889, and was succeeded by a Miss Nellie McCotter, who gave place to a Miss E. Kelly, on 6th March, 1890, and who resigned in September, 1890, when a Miss Annie Metcalf took charge till the appointment of Miss Reid.

Mr. Henry Thompson, the master, resigned in 1881, and Mr. Richard Gilmore, of Magherafelt, now residing in the Luney, was elected.

Mr. Hugh Atkinson, schoolmaster, resigned in 1884, when Mr. James Taylor, of Moyheland, was appointed. He continued to faithfully discharge the duties till the

resignation of Mr. Richard Gilmore, master, in 1906, when he was appointed master—the guardians abolishing the office of school-master—the children of the boys' school being sent to the different schools in town.

The clerk, Mr. John Steele, after thirty-eight years of faithful duty, died in November, 1885, and the present clerk, Mr. Wm. Hastings, succeeded to the office in 1886.

James Barnett, who occupied the position of porter from 1868, resigned in 1881, and a George Patterson was elected to the position, and continued until 1892, when Mr. Samuel Mawhinney was appointed. He was succeeded in 1899 by Mr. Francis M'Kenna, who retired on pension in September, 1919. Mr. Michael M'Kenna was appointed in 1910, and resigned in February, 1913; when the present porter, Patrick Kerr, took up duty in April of that year.

The matron, Miss Walker, resigned in 1888, having occupied the position since 1871, and Miss M. J. H. Allen was elected.

Miss Ellen Brittain, the schoolmistress, resigned on pension in 1896, after twenty-five years service, and Miss Anna M. Glennane, of Magherafelt (now Mrs. O'Kane) was appointed. Miss Glennane resigned in 1901, and was succeeded by Miss Cassie M'Oscar, who died on the 17th March, 1914, after thirteen years unremitting attention. The children of the Girls' School are now sent to outside schools, and Miss Gertrude Hogan, who has been J.A.M. in Tirkane School, Maghera, has been appointed Assistant Matron and School Attendant. Miss Marion Conway succeeded Miss Reid as charge nurse of the infirmary, at a salary of £40 a year, and continued till December, 1905, when Miss Hawe was elected, and filled the position till August, 1915, when she resigned, and Miss S. A. Shields was appointed.

Dr. John S. Vesey, the first medical officer of the workhouse, after 42 years of unremitting services, died, and was succeeded by his son, Dr. Agmon B. Vesey, in November, 1874. He continued to faithfully discharge the duties till his death, which took place on the 12th March, 1901, when Dr. Andrew Hegarty, J.P., who was medical officer of the Draperstown Dispensary District, was elected.

The late medical officer of the workhouse (Dr. A. B. Vesey, J.P.) considered the infirmary so important a training centre—it being so far removed from the County Infirmary, that after repeated requests the guardians, in 1896, decided to appoint two probationer nurses, and Miss Maggie G. Bell, daughter of the then stationmaster of Desertmartin, and Miss Charlotte Henderson were appointed at yearly salaries of £7 each. They, however, did not remain long

in the service of the guardians, as Miss Minnie Kyle and Miss Lizzie Mawhinney were appointed on the 16th September, 1897. Miss Kyle died, and a Miss Catherine Maguire was appointed temporary on 14th May, 1899, at £1 5s 0d per week. Miss Mawhinney resigned on 7th October, 1899. Only one probationer was then appointed—a Miss Wright being successful on the 8th February, 1900. She remained in office till June, 1901, when she left to enter the bonds of matrimony. The Nursing Order of the Local Government Board then came into force and the office of probationer ceased.

Up to 1898 the lunatics were under the direct care of the master and matron, but as the wards in which they remained were situated in the infirmary block, the guardians naturally thought that the charge nurse should be responsible with the medical officer for their well-being. At first the nurse refused, but subsequently consented. However, the Local Government Board took the matter up, and in June, 1898, James D. Johnston was appointed male ward attendant, and Miss Bridget Quinn, female ward attendant, on 7th July, 1898, at a yearly salary of £10 each.

The necessity for a night nurse for the infirmary became apparent, and Miss Quinn, the female ward attendant, was appointed on 28th December, 1899, at a salary of £20, and resigned on pension in 1915. Her place, as female ward attendant, being taken by a Mary E. Lennox. James D. Johnston, the male attendant, resigned. James Mayberry was appointed on the 30th November, 1899. He continued till 1905, when he died. His place was filled by a David M'Conamy, who is now serving his King and country in France as a soldier. He, however, remained a year in office, when James Shooters was elected.

Both Shooters and Miss Lennox resigned in 1908, when Wm. Brown and Miss Maggie Quinn were elected to fill the vacancies in 1909. Brown only remained nine months in office, and Miss Quinn seven months, and Mary Guiler and James Henry were appointed. These two persons, however, resigned in October, 1910, but on re-consideration, Mary Guiler was re-elected on 24th November, 1910, to again resign in 1913. John M'Williams was installed as male attendant, but died on 17th July, 1912. A Michael Mallon was then appointed, but only remained a comparatively short time, and a George Nicholl and Martha M'Donald—the present occupants—were elected in 1913.

In addition to the ordinary matters directly connected with the administration of the Poor-Laws, there were from time to time additional duties imposed upon the guardians.

The first principal one was the carrying into effect of the Medical Charities Act, which was passed in 1851. Prior to this, medical relief was dispensed at certain dispensaries, which had been established in the reign of George the third, for the purpose of affording relief to poor persons who, owing to distance, could not avail themselves of the several County infirmaries. These dispensaries were vested in what was called infirmary corporations, and the annual subscriptions was to be not less than £1 1s 0d. In addition to this voluntary contribution the Grand Juries were empowered to make presentments for the upkeep and carrying on of the dispensaries in their counties—but the amount of the presentment was not to exceed that of the annual subscriptions. The Magherafelt dispensary, which was established in pursuance of this Act, extended through the parishes of Magherafelt and adjoining districts. There were three places of dispensation—viz., one in Magherafelt, situated in the old courthouse, and open on Mondays; one in Castledawson, open on Wednesdays, and one in Ballyronan, open on Fridays.

The average time of attendance was seven hours at Magherafelt, two at Castledawson, and four at Ballyronan. The average number of patients who attended during a year was 2580; the number of dispensations, 8380, and the number of poor persons visited at their own houses was 384. In the case of the Magherafelt dispensary the private subscriptions amounted to £50 yearly, and the Grand Jury's contribution totalled a similar amount. The surgeon's salary was £60 yearly, with an additional gratuity of £10 if the funds permitted. This system of affording medical relief evidently became unsatisfactory—probably owing to the dearth of subscriptions, and the consequent curtailment of the necessary medicines required.

The Government, upon representation being made to them, passed an Act in the year 1851, providing for the support of the dispensaries from the poor-rate. This necessitated the formation of managing committees for each dispensary district, which were to comprise the Guardians for the time being elected for each of the divisions of the union, formed into dispensary districts. The divisions which formed the Magherafelt dispensary district were—Ballymoghna, Ballyronan, Desertmartin, Magherafelt, and Salterstown, and the guardians elected for those divisions in the year 1851, formed portion of the first dispensary committee.

In addition, the board of guardians were directed to elect a sufficient number of ratepayers resident in each district, and who were liable to pay poor-rate in respect of property therein of the net annual value of £30 at least; so that with the ex-officio and elected guardians, a complete committee would

be formed. The motive which induced the commissioners to fix that each committee should consist of a certain number of ex-officio members, seemed to be—that having in each case ascertained the number of persons entitled to sit on the committee as such, and the number of those resident in the district, they raised the number of the committee somewhat above that, with the view, and in the hope that the guardians, in their selection of persons to make up the full number of the committee, would choose those who they had reason to know would take an active interest in the well working of the dispensaries, for the benefit of the sick poor, and for the protection of the ratepayers against the expense of providing gratuitous medical relief for persons not justly, in accordance with the intentions of the legislature entitled to receive it.

On the 20th November, 1851, the guardians appointed Dr. Vesey as medical officer of Magherafelt dispensary district; Dr. John Morewood, for Draperstown dispensary district; Dr. R. M'D. Barr, for Maghera; Dr. R. H. Gordon, for Bellaghy, and Dr. Z. Maxwell, for Moncymore, at salaries of £80 each. These were the medical officers in charge of the dispensaries prior to the passing of the Act. The guardians in this course evidently exceeded their duty, as the commissioners intimated that the appointments rested with the respective committees. The committees, when they met, in February, 1852, carried out the intention of the guardians by appointing the doctors already named.

The Magherafelt dispensary committee met on the 17th February, 1852, there being present—Hon. and Rev. A. W. Pomeroy, Rev. C. K. Irwin, Rev. J. J. Jackson, Andrew Spotswood, J.P.; Wm. Graves, J.P.; Andrew McCansland, P.L.G.; James Duncan, P.L.G.; and W. Magowan, P.L.G. The committee met in the old courthouse, and Mr. Andrew Spotswood, J.P., was appointed chairman; the Hon. A. W. Pomeroy, vice-chairman; Rev. C. K. Irwin, hon. secretary, and Mr. James Duncan, assistant hon. secretary.

The committee agreed to meet on the first and third Thursdays in each month in the Petty Jury Room in the courthouse. The committee fixed Monday as the day of attendance of the medical officer, at the courthouse, from ten till one o'clock, and ordered that the medical officer should not be required to attend to any ticket arriving after one o'clock, but that all who were actually in attendance at that hour should be attended and prescribed for. They also fixed the outstation at Ballyronan till 1st May, and after that date the station was to be at Killymuck, the Rev. J. J. Jackson having undertaken to procure suitable accommodation free.

Dr. Knox, Poor-Law Medical Inspector, inspected the dispensary on the 16th August, 1852, and expressed himself satisfied with the arrangements made, but suggested that the dispensary should be open two days weekly instead of one. This was agreed to, and Friday was fixed as the second day—hours 9 to 11. In consideration of the opening of the dispensary on Fridays, the salary of the Bridewell keeper was increased from £3 15s to £4 yearly—for attendance, etc.

The committee agreed to prevent the spread of infectious disease if possible, and for that purpose directed that in every case of fever the medical officer inform the family of the patient that unless the patient be removed to hospital all medical aid would be discontinued. This was not, however, in accordance with the commissioners' view, as they wrote in August, 1856, that it was an error for medical attendants to suppose, as some did, that they were exonerated from attendance on a patient who declined to go into the hospital.

Although the dispensary depot which had been situated in Ballyronan, was to be transferred to Killynuck, on 1st May, 1852, there is no record that it was so removed—the information contained in the minute book tending to show that it was retained in Ballyronan. An account was passed on 4th May, 1854, for £1 10s 0d, for payment to Ellen Marks, Ballyronan, being rent of room for dispensary in that place, and in 1856 Sarah Marks was paid £2 for a similar purpose.

Sergeant Armstrong, caretaker of the Magherafelt dispensary, died in 1854, and John Adams was appointed his successor at £4 yearly, which included attendance and fuel.

In the year 1858 the Salters' Company erected the present dispensary in Magherafelt, and handed it over to the committee at the nominal rent of 1s per year, on the condition that the caretaker was to be appointed by the agent of the Salters' Company. The committee gratefully acknowledged the liberality of the Company. Thomas Hudson was the first "Housekeeper" of the new dispensary, and his salary was £4 annually, and was subsequently increased to £6.

In this year the dispensary district was formed in vaccination stations. Those children residing in the divisions of Magherafelt and Ballymoghlan were to attend Magherafelt dispensary; those resident in Ballyronan and Salterstown, to attend Ballyronan dispensary, and those residing in Desertmartin division to attend the house of Olivia Henry, in Desertmartin, for which she was to be paid £1 10s 0d yearly. Desertmartin did not remain long a vaccination

station, for in May, 1860, the committee directed Dr. Vesey to cease attending there, it being so convenient to Magherafelt.

The present dispensary depot in Ballyronan was built by the Salters' Company in 1864—the salary of the caretaker was fixed at £4 annually, in addition to the committee supplying coal, and on 5th January, 1865, James Rodgers was appointed the first caretaker. The salary remained at £4 till 1879, when it was increased to £6, which is the amount paid at present. James Rodgers continued as caretaker till 1881, when he died, and Matilda Rodgers was appointed. She remained caretaker till 1895, when she was succeeded by John Hudson, and the present caretaker, Kate McWilliams, was appointed in March, 1910. The salary of Thomas Hudson was increased to £8, and in 1880 it was further increased to £10. He died in 1895, and his widow, Margaret Hudson, was appointed caretaker. She died in March, 1898, and Mary Hudson was appointed. She continued till 1912, when she was succeeded by the present caretaker, Mary Kearney.

The duties of the dispensary committees were not confined to seeing that poor people were medically relieved, but were allotted by the boards of guardians the transaction of sanitary business, in which sphere they were of great assistance, and were the means of having much useful sanitary work accomplished. In 1876 the committee applied to the Salters' Company to have the pumps and wells in the town (which had been provided by the Company) given into their custody for the purpose of securing a wholesome and regular supply of water for the townspeople, and the Company acceded to their request. Complaints as to the purity of the water supply reached the committee from time to time, with the result that it was decided to have a sample of water from each of the pumps sent for analysis. The water was sent to Professor Leebody, Londonderry, who reported adversely, and the committee directed that a notice be put up over each pump that the water was unfit for drinking purposes. The notices are still above the pumps, and notwithstanding the warning contained thereon, the inhabitants still drink the water, and no town of its size in the north of Ireland has been so free from dangerous infectious disease. In August, 1881, the committee ordered that M'Teague's well, situated on the Tobermore road, be built over, and a suitable barrier erected, which was carried out.

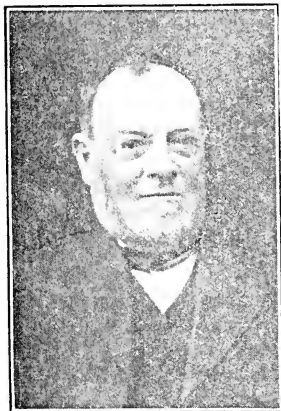
It was found that the apartments provided for the caretakers were insufficient, and in January, 1878, it was decided to instruct Mr. Robert Young to prepare a plan and specification for the addition to the premises in



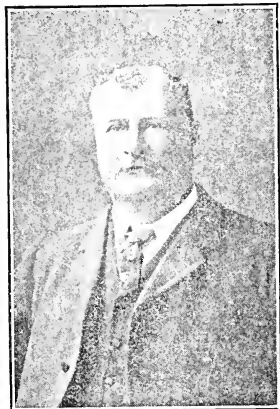
THE LATE DR. A. B. VESEY, J.P.



THE LATE DR. F. ATTERSON, J.P.



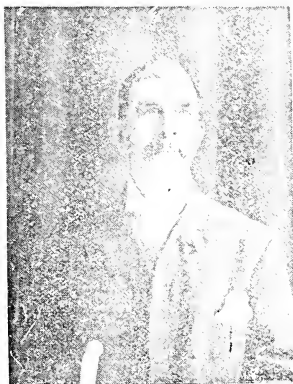
DR. A. HEGARTY, J.P.



DR. M. HUNTER.



THE LATE MR. SAMUEL PORTER, J.P.



MR. ANDREW BROWN, J.P.,
County Councillor.



MR. T. A. McLERNON, Solicitor
(late representative for Magherafelt on
the Co. Council.)

Church Street, and the Salters' Company be asked to undertake the work. The Company did not carry out the work, and advertisements were directed to be issued inviting tenders, which was done, and the work completed.

Dr. John S. Vesey, the medical officer, died in 1874, and his son, Dr. A. B. Vesey, was appointed. He continued to faithfully discharge the duties till March, 1901, when he died, and Dr. A. Hegarty, J.P., was elected in April, 1901.

In 1893 the committee agreed to allow a letter-box to be erected in the dispensary premises. They continued to give their services gratuitously and quite willingly to the public, till the passing of the Local Government Act, 1898, when they were superseded, and their duties transferred to the board of guardians.

In the year 1879 the potato crop became a failure owing to excessive rains, and it was apparent that distress would become general, although not on such an extensive scale as in 1817. In addition to the potato crop, great difficulty was experienced in saving the turf crop, and the outlook for employment amongst the labouring class was anything but bright. In these circumstances it was not surprising that the Government passed a Relief of Distress Act in 1880, which enabled boards of guardians in Ireland to administer relief in food and fuel out of the workhouse, and in addition a Seed Supply Act was also passed, which provided for the supply, in certain cases, of seed potatoes and seed oats for poor occupiers of land in distressed districts who were unable to procure adequate quantities of such commodities. The guardians of each union were required to make out an estimate of the amount on loan which they considered would be required. The loans were to be granted without interest by the Commissioners of Public Works, and to be repaid by two equal instalments—the first on the 1st August, 1881, and the second on the 1st August, 1882. The guardians were also empowered to sell to occupiers of land, valued not higher than £15, a quantity of seed potatoes sufficient to sow an acre, and a similar quantity of seed oats—the total cost not to exceed £5. The seed was not to be sold at less than the net price paid by the guardians for it, including all expenses for carriage, storage, etc. No seed was to be sold to any person unless the guardians or such persons as the Local Government Board would nominate, were satisfied that the land into which it was to be put had been properly prepared and was ready for sowing. There was a further proviso that in cases where occupiers of premises were not separately rated, the guardians were to receive evidence as to the annual value of such premises and make

a grant accordingly—the amount to be repaid to the guardians in two equal instalments. The guardians of Magherafelt union estimated that it would take about £6,000 worth of potatoes and oats for distribution, and that amount was provisionally granted. Committees were appointed for the several districts of the union, and persons selected to purchase potatoes and oats. Each occupier receiving the grant was required to sign a promissory note guaranteeing to repay the amount.

The following were the sums expended in each division:—

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Ballymoghlan | £44 19 8 |
| Ballyronan | 131 7 2 |
| Baneran | 522 18 8 |
| Bellaghy | 495 12 8 |
| Brackastlievegallion | 171 0 2 |
| Carnamoney | 516 6 6 |
| Castledawson | 580 5 0 |
| Clady | 238 8 2 |
| Desertmartin | 228 9 8 |
| Draperstown | 568 19 6 |
| Gulladuff | 157 7 4 |
| Innisearn | 351 7 0 |
| Lissan Upper | 200 16 8 |
| Maghera | 157 0 6 |
| Magherafelt | 113 8 8 |
| Moneyhaw | nil. |
| Moneymore | 58 6 0 |
| Rocktown | 384 16 2 |
| Salterstown | 181 19 8 |
| Springhill | 80 3 2 |
| Swateragh | 379 9 2 |
| The Loop | 115 3 2 |
| The Six Towns | 203 2 8 |
| Tobermore | 86 14 10 |
| Tullykeeran | 396 11 6 |

£6,367 13 8

After payment of the first instalment the guardians petitioned the Local Government Board, and they divided the second instalment into two equal parts, and the occupiers refunded to the Board the amounts they received along with their poor rate. In a number of cases the rate collectors had great difficulty in recovering the several sums, and eventually the guardians were obliged to write off a substantial sum as irrecoverable.

The next legislative work the guardians were called upon to administer was the Labourers' Act of 1883. For a number of years they opposed the complying with its terms, although the necessary representations were forwarded to them by certain labourers. However, the people of the Draperstown district would not be denied, and after a sworn inquiry the guardians were obliged to formulate a scheme for the erection of five cottages—they being situated in Straw (2); Strawmore (1), and Moyheeland (2.) These were the first cottages built, and have been

occupied since 1898. From that time onward cottages have been erected till now (1915) there are 225 in existence, at rents varying from 3s 11d monthly for half-acre allotments, to 6s 6d for acre allotments. According to the latest returns of the Local Government Board, the amount of loans sanctioned from all sources under the Labourers' Acts was £45,236, of which £43,771 had been received up to March, 1915. Of the amount received—£2,036—which was granted in connection with the first twelve cottages, was discharged by the Government in 1902. At present a sum of £55 19s 2d is paid annually by the Local Government Board out of the Exchequer contribution towards the reduction of the principal due the Board of Works. In addition, the Irish Land Commission allow an abatement of 36 per cent. on the amounts paid them yearly.

The next important statute cast upon them, "as overseers," was the Representation of the People Act, 1884. True, there was the Act of 1868, which dealt principally with freeholders and rated occupiers of £12 and upwards, the revision of which only occupied portion of a day. Mr. Gladstone's Act, however, created a great revolution, altering, as it did, the existing law, and giving men who had "a smoke" (House) the right to have a voice in the selection of a Parliamentary representative. It can, of course, be imagined that the work at first was of a prodigious character, the revision of the lists occupying weeks. However, so far as South Derry was concerned, it was carried out by the union officials in a manner which drew from the Revising Barrister and others the highest praise, and this satisfactory state of affairs has continued up to the present.

Then followed the Local Government Act, 1898, which provided for the establishing of County and Rural District Councils throughout each County. To the County Councils were transferred nearly all the business of the Grand Juries, and all the business of the County at large presentment sessions; the business of the guardians with respect to making, levying and collecting poor rate; the business of the guardians as local authority under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1894, and the business of the justices in Petty Sessions under the Explosive Act, 1875, except the power to appoint an officer. To the Rural District Councils was transferred the business of each baronial presentment sessions, and the duties under the Public Health and Labourers' Acts, which had been discharged by the guardians. The district council is, so far, generally, as rural districts are concerned, the more important body, because it is the fact of a person being a district councillor that he is a guardian. The Act abolished the ex-officio guardians, but in order to have the benefit of their experience

during the initial three years, the first council was empowered to co-opt three persons who had, at any time during the preceding three years, being ex-officio guardians of the union. It also provided for each electoral division being represented by two persons, the elections to take place triennially.

The first meeting of the new council took place on the 15th April, 1899, when Mr. Charles Convery was elected chairman, and at the following meeting, Mr. John Keenan, J.P., was elected vice-chairman. The office of chairman of the district council confers that of justice of the peace on the occupant. Mr. Convery continued as the chairman of the council till 1906, when, owing to the Unionists having secured the balance of power, he was replaced by Mr. Andrew Brown, J.P., Ballyegish House, who, at present, ably represents the Magherafelt County division on the County Council.

At the first meeting of the board of guardians, Mr. Charles Heron, J.P., was elected chairman; Mr. Louis Smyth, vice-chairman, and Mr. Smylie Robson, deputy-vice-chairman.

The present chairman of the board of guardians is Mr. J. E. O'Neill, J.P., and he has occupied that position continually since 1908. He is also the vice-chairman of the County Council, and has filled that position for years, which speaks volumes for his business capacity and the regard in which he is held.

The following were the first councillors elected:—

Ballymoghnan—Samuel Black, Benjamin Miller.
 Ballyronan—Alex. Burnett, Wm. J. Hamilton.
 Buncran—Charles Heron, J.P.; Hugh Hagan.
 Bellaghy—Joseph Davison. Thomas Daley, J.P.
 Brackastievegallion—John Convery, Andrew Latimer.
 Carnamoney—Daniel Lagan, Alex M'Iver, jun.
 Castledawson—Henry M'Kendry, J.P.; Nicholas Mullholland.
 Clady—T. P. Henry, Teady M'Erlano.
 Desertmartin—John Park, W. J. Hanna.
 Draperstown—Patrick Bradley, Michael Morgan.
 Gulladuff—Charles Convery, John Boylo.
 Inniscarn—James Breen, Patrick Gormley.
 Lissan Upper—William Barefoot, Peter Rogers.
 Maghera—Samuel Anderson, Thomas Graham, J.P.
 Magherafelt—Walter Bell, James Bowman.
 Moneyhaw—Robert Bell, Wm. John Brown.

Money—Samuel Bradley, Thos. Carleton, Rocktown—James Shivers, J.P.; Bernard Mulholland.

Salterstown—James Costello, John Larkin, Springhill—Col. Sir W. F. L. Conyngham, K.C.B.; William. Ekin, J.P.

Swatragh—John Friel, John M'Keefry, jun. The Loop—Andrew Brown, Jas. Hutchinson. The Six Towns—Bernard Clerkin, John H. Conway.

Tobemore—Smylie Robson, Wm. Anderson. Tullykeeran—James E. O'Neill, J.P.; Andrew Diamond.

The co-opted members were:—

Old ex-officio Guardians—John Keenan, J.P.; Henry Devlin, J.P.; Felix Ferran, J.P.; Louis Smyth, James O'Kane, George Mullan.

Visitors to the workhouse are at once struck with the excellent provision made for the comfort of the inmates in each department of the establishment. The guardians have always shown themselves most anxious to do all in their power to make the lot of those committed to their care as happy as possible, and towards that object have from time to time authorised improvements. For instance, in order to alleviate the suffering of those afflicted with what is known as the "White Scourge," and to ensure that the patients should have every opportunity of recovering, they provided a male consumptive ward, well lighted and fitted with every convenience. They also had converted one of the old women's wards in the infirmary into a Female Consumptive Ward. In 1901 they had the antiquated cooking apparatus replaced by modern appliances, and in 1909 the old boilers gave place to two of the very latest pattern. Other necessary improvements have also been introduced.

In these matters the guardians have been very fortunate in receiving—principally through the good offices of the matron—the practical sympathy and hearty co-operation of the gentry of the neighbourhood, who have assisted them in transforming the House from its practically crude and unfinished state, into the up-to-date condition it is at present in. The pioneer was Miss Hamilton, at present Chairman of the Portrush Urban Council and Ballymoney Board of Guardians (the only lady in Ireland occupying two such positions), who is daughter of the late Venerable Archdeacon Hamilton, Dromore Rectory. She gave pictures to decorate the wards, and folding screens for the infirmary. Thanks to the kindness of Miss Clarke, sister of Col. J. J. Clarke, Maghera, H.M. Lieutenant for the County, and Chairman of the County Council, enamel-ware is in universal use in the workhouse. The first feather pillows were introduced by Miss Gough, Maghera. Forms were the seating accommodation in the several

wards, and through the generosity of the late Lord Spencer Chichester, D.L., who for many years was a valued ex-officio member of the Board, arm chairs were provided and proved a real boon. Knives, forks and plates were also provided by his Lordship. The good work begun by him has been most graciously continued by Lady Spencer Chichester, who gives a cheque each year to the matron, by which bathing accommodation has been provided for the infirm, healthy and children classes, clocks for infirm wards, garden seats provided; several wards and dormitories ceiled, wainscotted and made warm and comfortable. Mrs. Lenox-Conyngham, wife of Major Lenox-Conyngham, at present at the front; Miss Lenox-Conyngham, daughter of the late Colonel Sir W. F. Lenox-Conyngham, K.C.B., for a considerable time Chairman of the Board of Guardians; Mrs. Clarke, daughter of Col. H. S. B. Bruce; Miss Cassidy, Glenbrook; the late Honourable R. T. O'Neill, M.P., have also contributed in making the workhouse such a pleasant place to dwell in, and in which the guardians and officials take a pardonable pride.

The chairman of the Boards of Guardians when the Local Government Act, 1898, came into force, was the late D. Campbell Gausson, B.L., J.P., Shanemullagh House—a position which he had occupied for nine years, discharging his duties to the utmost satisfaction of the members of the Board, and to the benefit of the ratepayers. The late Mr. Gausson was a descendant from a French refugee Protestant named David Gausson, who escaped from his native country and settled in Newry, Co. Down. His wish, it is said, was to settle in England, but the vessel in which he sailed was obliged by a storm to run into Carlingford Bay for shelter. By Dorothy Fortescue, his wife, he left at his decease—6th October, 1751, aged 87 years—three daughters and one son. One of the daughters married George Atkinson, of Dundalk, and another the Rev. Wm. Lucas, vicar of Newry. The son David, also of Newry, left, at his death—4th July, 1802—a daughter and a son, David Gausson, who, after residing some time at Newry, came to reside at Ballyronan House, Co. Derry. In 1778 he married Elizabeth, daughter of James Campbell, of Drumban, Co. Derry. He was succeeded by David Campbell Gausson, who, in 1812, married Anne, daughter of John Ash, Magherafelt, and died in 1853. He was succeeded in that year by the subject of this sketch, who, in 1861, married Annie Catherine, widow of Capt. Henry Robe Saunders, R.A., and daughter of Wm. Ottewill, of Dublin, and to whom were born two sons and a daughter—the only one living being Mr. P. C. Gausson, B.A., K.C., Dublin.

Mr. Shivers has represented the division of Rocktown, without interruption, during the past 46 years—a record which it is anticipated cannot be beaten in the three Kingdoms. In March, 1869, he succeeded the late Mr. Wm. Hunter, of Drumlamph, in the representation of that division, and during the period which has since elapsed he has faithfully looked after the interests of the ratepayers, who are proud of their veteran representative. He is hale and hearty, and it is the sincere wish of all his colleagues, without distinction, who hold him in the highest esteem, that he may be long spared to continue his good work. In 1907 he was appointed a magistrate, and he is a regular occupant of the magisterial bench in Maghera.

The elected Guardians for the year ending 25th March, 1899, were as follows:—Ballymoghlan, Robert Ekin; Ballyronan, Alexander Burnett; Baneran, Charles Heron; Bellaghy, Henry Kennedy; William Hogg; Brackagh-slievegallion, Andrew Latimer; Carnamoney, Daniel McKenna; Castledawson, Henry McKendry, J.P.; Nicholas Mulholland; Clady, Robert S. Murdock; Desertmartin, Wm. J. Hanna; Draperstown, Henry O'Neill, J.P.; Gulladuff, Charles Convery; Inniscairn, Hugh Bradley; Lissan Upper, John Kane; Maghera, Samuel Shiels, Thomas Shiels; Magherafelt, Thomas Houston, James Garvin; Moneyhew, Robert Bell; Money-more, Thomas Carleton; Rocktown, James Shivers, deputy vice-chairman; Salterstown,

James Costello; Springhill, Joseph Carson; Swateragh, John O'Kane; George Mullan; The Loop, Andrew Brown; The Six Towns, Patrick O'Kane; Tubbermore, William Anderson; Tullykeeran, Andrew Diamond.

The thirty magistrates with the highest valuations, who were ex-officio guardians at the same time, were:—Campbell Gausson, B.L., chairman, Shanemullagh House; Colonel Clark, D.L., vice-chairman, Largan-togher House; Colonel Sir W. F. L. Conyngham, K.C.B., D.L., Moneymore; Colonel Bruce, D.L., Ballyscullion House; Thomas S. Ash, Manor House, Bellaghy; Lord Spencer Chichester, D.L., Moyola Park; Robert W. Forrester, Cloverhill; Bgd.-Sur. Watters, C.B., White Fort; Arthur D. Gausson, Ballyronan House; Andrew Brown, Magherafelt; James Harbison, Magherafelt; James Sinclair, Cavanreagh; John Weir, Castledawson; Neal McGuckin, Ballinderry Bridge; Samuel Porter, Magherafelt; Harpur C. Davison, Moneymore; Wm. John Derby, Aghuim; Thomas Daley, Bellaghy; Thomas Meek, Moneymore; Wm. Rutherford, Derry-crummy, Cookstown; Robert Johnston, Barley Hill; George Ramsay, Cloggan, Cookstown; William Ekin, Rockspring, Moneymore; Felix Ferran, Magherafelt; Henry Devlin, Moneymore; William Harbison, Magherafelt; Mark Davison, Ballyscullion; John Keenan, Leitrim; James R. Leeper, Drunascallion; Peter D. Carleton, Draperstown.

THE BUILDING SOCIETY.

On the 6th November, 1871, a Society called "The Magherafelt Building and Investment Society," was formed. The President was the Master of the Worshipful Salters' Company. Messrs. H. E. Cartwright, J.P. (agent of the Salters' Co.), and Hugh Walker, J.P., were Trustees, and Messrs. Archie McFall, James Harbison, Thomas Wilson, John Donaghy, Richard Donnelly, Thomas H. S. Taylor, and Alexander Johnston, were the Directors; with the Belfast Banking Company as Treasurer, and Mr. Samuel Porter as Secretary. The object of the Society was for the purpose of raising, by monthly subscriptions, a fund from which money could be advanced to its members to enable them to erect or purchase freehold or leasehold property, and for that purpose members were entitled to receive advances out of the funds of the Society, to be secured by a mortgage on such property; and also to provide for its members a safe and profitable investment for their money. It was decided to hold monthly meetings in the Town Hall, Magherafelt, on the first Tuesday of every month, with a stipulation that the meetings were not to be continued after half-past 9 o'clock p.m. Only members were to be admitted. The officers were to consist of a president, seven directors, two trustees, two auditors, a secretary, solicitor, and a steward. The three directors on the top of the list were to retire every year, but were eligible for re-election. Any vacancy occurring during the year was to be filled up at any monthly meeting.

Rules were drawn up, and the Society was registered under the Acts relating to Benefit Building Societies on the 15th November, 1871. The rules provided that any member who was present at any meeting, and when called upon or elected to serve in the office of steward, and refused, was to be fined two shillings each time of refusal; and if any officer became bankrupt, insolvent, compounded with his creditors, or ceased to reside within five miles from the Town Hall, Magherafelt, he was to be suspended or removed from office. The solicitor was the late Mr. John Glover, and the remuneration fixed for investigating title to all property offered as security, and preparation of the mortgage, was as follows:—

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| In case of 4 shares | £3 10 0 |
| do. 8 " | 4 0 0 |
| do. 12 " | 4 10 0 |
| do. 16 " | 5 0 0 |

to be paid by the party offering the security.

Each steward in his turn was to attend every monthly meeting at 7-30 p.m., and to receive the amount payable by each member, and enter same in the pass books provided.

They were not to receive any money after 9 o'clock, and to pay the amount, so received, to the bankers not later than a quarter past 11 o'clock the following day. The shares were £25 each, payable by monthly instalments of 2s 6d per share. Each member, on admission, was to pay an entrance fee of sixpence per share, and sixpence for copy of the rules and pass book, and in case the books were lost or destroyed, a new one was to be granted on payment of a fine of one shilling.

Advances were to be made to members in shares of £25, and any member could be advanced, on loan, at the rate of £100, in respect of each subscribing share he held. When any member required a loan he was to make application to the secretary and lodge, if required, the sum of 5s for every £25 share in his application, which was to be returned upon his providing the necessary security. The period was not to exceed fourteen years, and the repayments were to be made as follows:—

Loan of £100, repayable in

| | Monthly and Quarterly Instals. | |
|----------|--------------------------------|---------|
| 14 years | £0 18 7 | £2 16 3 |
| 13 " | 0 19 6 | 2 19 0 |
| 12 " | 1 0 7 | 3 2 4 |
| 11 " | 1 1 10 | 3 7 2 |
| 10 " | 1 3 4 | 3 10 7 |
| 9 " | 1 5 3 | 3 16 6 |
| 8 " | 1 7 6 | 4 3 3 |
| 7 " | 1 10 6 | 4 12 3 |
| 6 " | 1 14 6 | 5 4 6 |
| 5 " | 2 0 0 | 6 1 0 |
| 4 " | 2 8 4 | 7 6 2 |
| 3 " | 3 2 3 | 9 8 0 |
| 2 " | 4 10 0 | 13 12 0 |
| 1 " | 8 13 4 | 26 3 6 |

The rate of interest was 5 per cent.

Each member applying for an advance was to pay 10s for each survey of the property offered as security. A survey committee was then to be summoned and, if necessary, they were to employ a valuator at the expense of the applicant. A date was then fixed for inspection and valuation (if necessary), and if the applicant or his deputy failed to attend, or was late in attending, he was to be fined 5s in each case. Any member entitled to an advance was allowed three months to find security, by mortgage, to the satisfaction of the Society. Provision was also made for power to sell, redeem, or mortgage, transfer and withdrawal, and a scale of fines for non-payment of monthly subscriptions was also formed.

The Society continued for some years, and a number of houses, especially in King Street and Meeting Street, were built under the facilities offered by it.

THE READING ROOM.

In 1824 a Reading Room and Library were established in connection with the Sunday School Society, and held in one of the rooms of the old courthouse. There were 230 volumes provided. No Belfast papers were available, owing to the cost and means of conveyance, and very few morning papers would now adorn our breakfast tables at the price then charged—4d per copy. It is not certain when the Reading Room and Library ceased to exist.

Prior to 1891 the want of a general Reading Room was greatly felt. Mr. J. I. Donaghy, B.A., took the matter in hands, and with such success that the "Magherafelt Newsroom" was opened to the public on the 2nd November, 1891. The papers taken were: THE NEWS-LETTER, IRISH NEWS, NORTHERN WHIG, FREEMAN'S JOURNAL AND NATIONAL PRESS, IRISH TIMES, EVENING TELEGRAPH, DERRY JOURNAL, COLERAINE CONSTITUTION, WEEKLY GRAPHIC, REVIEW OF REVIEWS, and PEARSON'S WEEKLY. The subscriptions were six shillings per annum for householders, and three shillings for clerks and young men. The officers appointed were:—President, Lord Spencer Chichester, D.L.; vice-presidents, Robert M'Guckin, solicitor, and James Johnston; committee, Dr. Francis Auterson, J.P.; John Boden, J.P.; Andrew Brown, J.P.; John Donaghy, John Glennaue, James Harbison, J.P.; John Harbison, solicitor; H. E. Kincaid, M.A.; James Kilroe, J.P.; Samuel Porter, J.P.; John Reilly, D.L., R.I.C.; Agmon B. Vesey, M.D., J.P.; hon. treasurer, Mr. John Morrison, and hon. secretaries, J. I. Donaghy, B.A., and D. Jamison. In addition, the following accepted honorary membership:—T. S. Ash, J.P.; J. Clark, Rev. Robert J. Charleton, C. W. G. Dysart, J.P.; A. Fetherstonhaugh, solicitor; Campbell Gausson, J.P., B.L.; A. D. A.

Gausson, J.P.; T. M. Healy, M.P.; Rev. Brice Lee Jackson, M.A.; B. H. Lane, Sessional Crown Solicitor; Sir Thomas Lea, M.P.; Garret Nagle, R.M., and Lieut.-Col. Waters, C.B.

The first half-yearly meeting of the subscribers was held in the Newsroom on the 3rd June, 1892, at which Mr. H. E. Kincaid, M.A., Head-master of the Rainey School, presided. Mr. Donaghy read the report, which showed that the committee had spared no expense to make the rooms as comfortable, bright and attractive as possible, but he added a note of regret that, considering the strictly non-sectarian, and non-political lines on which the room had been conducted—the small attendance of members had caused great anxiety to the committee. The object of the newsroom was, in addition to placing at the disposal of members a large number of papers and periodicals at a cheaper rate than an individuals could obtain them, to endeavour to bring the people of the town together, and to promote a spirit of union and sympathy; of friendship and good feeling. The efforts of the committee, however, did not receive that measure of support which they merited, and after a short period the undertaking had to be abandoned.

Subsequently an effort was made by Dr. E. Montgomery to revive the Reading Room. He was successful, and it was held in Garden Street, in portion of the premises now occupied by Mr. J. Cowan. However, it only survived a short time, and those responsible were obliged to give up the idea.

Some years afterwards a Catholic Reading Room was established in the Old National Schools in King Street. It was carried on for a number of years, but it also has practically ceased to exist. Thus Magherafelt has not been very happy in regard to its Reading Rooms.

SOME LOCAL HILLS.

Magherafelt, like many another district, has its little dark history. It seems that a long time ago a murder was committed at what is known as the "Gallows Hill." From all the information that can be obtained locally, and which has been transmitted from generation to generation, it seems that a man named Farrel had accumulated some money, on which a person named Donaghy had set covetous eyes, and after trying various means, found the only way to obtain possession was to get Farrel out of the way. This he accomplished and fled, taking with him, in addition to the booty, a knitted waistcoat, said to have been worn by Farrel at the time of the murder. When Donaghy arrived in Belfast he pawned the waistcoat and proceeded to America. After a sojourn there of seven years he returned, called at the pawn office in Belfast, and received the waistcoat he had pawned—the pawnbroker remarking he could not dispose of it. He wore the waistcoat in the district, and Farrel's widow identified it by the stitch and material she had used in making it for her murdered husband. Donaghy was arrested, tried, and sentenced to be hanged. The gallows was erected at the hill on the old road from Magherafelt to Moneymore, and the sentence duly executed. It is from this event the Hill takes its name.

At the place where the road to Megargy branches off the road to Moneymore, in the townland of Coolshinney, there is a spot known as "Margaret's Grave." It would appear that some considerable time ago a woman named Margaret Osbourne lived in Coolshinney—in one of the houses at present owned by Mr. Charles Durnan, and which is situated quite convenient to the place referred to. One morning she was found in an out-house hanging by the neck by a cord, which was attached to one of the rafters. She was quite dead when discovered, and

was buried at Ballymoghlan cross-roads. The people of that district did not relish the idea of a person who hanged herself "sleeping" in their locality, and used such influence that Margaret's remains were disinterred and removed to Desertlyn Old Burying-ground. They did not remain long there, as the law in force at that time did not permit of the remains of a person who took their own life being buried in consecrated ground. They were again disinterred, but where they were to be buried was the question which each one asked, and as no one seemed able to answer it, the people were at their wits' end. However, the then landlord of the townland of Coolshinney, Olphert by name, hearing of the occurrence, came to the rescue and had the remains buried at the place now known as Margaret's grave, and in order that the coffin would not be again removed, it is said that he caused a quantity of large stones to be placed on the top.

The four principal Hills in the neighbourhood of Magherafelt are Thompson's Hill, situated in Ballymoghlan, and which is 398 feet above sea level; Mullaghboy Hill, 386 feet; Rough Hill, 304 feet, and Windmill Hill, situated in Dunamoney, 242 feet above sea level.

It would appear that Killyfaddy Dam had been artificially formed, as a breast work extended across its eastern extremity for the purpose of confining the waters of a small stream which enters it at its western end, and which rises in Desertlyn Parish, at an elevation of 300 feet above sea level.

Ballymoghlan Bog, which is 280 feet from sea level, would seem to have been at one time the seat of a small lake, and the present bog may probably have originated in its partial drainage or absorption, and the subsequent accumulation of vegetable matter.

THE MAGISTRACY.

The title "Justice of the Peace" was first conferred in England by an Act of Edward III., in the year 1360, and the Commissions in Counties became permanent from about that time. But it appears that almost 100 years previously—in 1264—the name "Custos pacis" appeared for the first time in English History. At what period the title of Magistrate was conferred in Ireland is not definitely known, but it is supposed it would be subsequent to 1360. When Magherafelt was first honoured by having one of its inhabitants made a "Justice of the Peace," or who was the first magistrate was, is equally uncertain. In a directory published in 1824 it is stated that a court leet, or manorial court, was held monthly for the recovery of debts under forty shillings, and that the person who presided was called the seneschal, who was the agent of the estate. In the directory no name of a person being a magistrate is contained, therefore it may be assumed that no inhabitant had that privilege. The title must, however, have been shortly afterwards conferred, for in the year 1839 we find Mr. Andrew Spotswood, the then agent of the Estate, was a magistrate, and from that time onward prominent inhabitants were appointed. In the year 1851 the Petty Sessions Act was passed, but long prior to that date Petty Sessions Courts were held. In 1837 these were held fortnightly, and a Manorial Court was held monthly, presided over by the agents of the Salters' Company, at which civil actions within the Manor, for sums not exceeding £1 16s 11d, were heard by a jury of twelve, with a right of appeal to the Assizes. In Thom's directory for 1854, the magistrates for the Magherafelt district were—Captain Francis P. Cassidy (afterwards Colonel); Lieut-Col. W. F. Lenox-Conyngham; Wm. Lenox-Conyngham, D.L., Springhill, Moneymore; Robert Peel Dawson, D.L., Moyola Park; Campbell Gausson, Lake View, Ballyronan; John Hill, The Castle, Bellaghy; John

Rowley Millar, Moneymore; Rowley Millar, D.L., Moneymore; Andrew Spotswood, Millbrook, Magherafelt; Sir Thomas Staples, Bart., LL.D., Q.C., Lissan, and John Stevenson, D.L., Fortwilliam, Tobermore. The Petty Sessions Clerk for Maghera and Magherafelt was Mr. Andrew Cullen.

Additions were subsequently made, including John A. Clarke, Castledawson; W. A. Gausson, Ballyronan; Neal M'Guckin, Ballinderry; John Weir, Castledawson; Samuel Porter, James Harbison, jun.; Thomas Wilson, Robert Hanna, and Dr. E. Montgomery, of Magherafelt; Lord Spencer Chichester, D.L., Moyola Park; Peter Devlin, Magherafelt; Dr. A. B. Vesey, Dr. E. Otterson, W. J. Derby, Aghrim; Henry M'Kendry, Andrew Brown, The Cottage; Samuel Cathcart, Grange; James R. Leeper, Thomas S. Ash, Mark Davison, Ballysculbin; H. C. Mann, Drumlamph; James Kelly, Thomas Daley, both of Bellaghy; Wm. Harbison, W. G. Courtney.

The Magistrates at present entitled to adjudicate at Magherafelt are—Col. S. A. M. Bruce, Lieut-Col. R. P. D. S. Chichester, D.L.; John Boden, Alex. J. Clarke, Daniel Convery, Hugh Devlin, Patrick Devlin, Felix Ferran, A. D. A. Gausson, Charles Heron, Lawrence Higgins, John Keenan, John Keightly, James Kilroe, James Larkin, John Larkin, F. J. Malone, Michael M'Kenna, Wm. M'Millan, Felix O'Neill, John O'Kane, John Pimley, John Rodgers, and W. Q. Murphy, B.L., R.M.

Mr. Wm. Mitchell, Castledawson, held the office of Petty Sessions Clerk, and on his resignation, Mr. W. J. Thompson, managing clerk for Messrs. Glover and M'Guckin, was appointed. He was succeeded at his death by Mr. D. S. Kelly, and on his death the present efficient and obliging clerk, Mr. James A. Harbison, was elected.



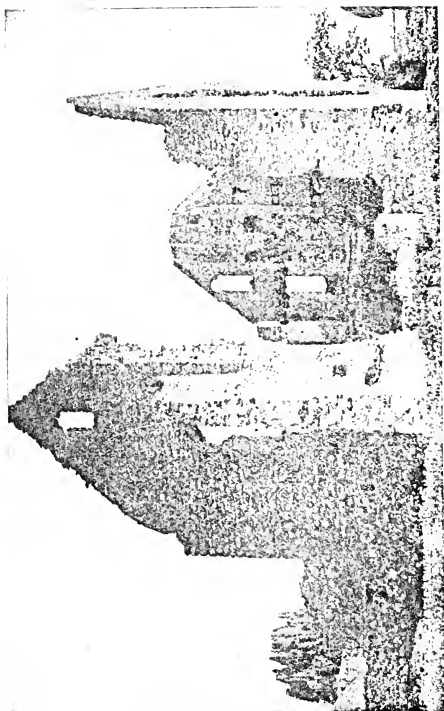
LATE LIEUT. A. HEGARTY, R.A.M.C.



LATE SERGEANT W. A. MUNRO.
Australian Contingent.



LATE PRIVATE ABRAHAM STEWART.



RUINS OF SALTERSTOWN CASTLE.

MAGHERAFELT'S ROLL OF HONOUR.

When the time arrives for the writing of the history of the present war, and the allocation of credit to each distict in Ireland for the voluntary response made by its manhood, Magherafelt and district will occupy a pretty conspicuous place. Not only has she given of her residential sons, but also those who had gone to Australia and Canada, and who were amongst the first to answer their country's call, and the acts of bravery performed by those at the front have received well-merited recognition.

The following is a list of Magherafelt men with the Army or Navy, compiled from all the local available sources.

KILLED IN ACTION.

Lieutenant Andrew Hegarty, R.A.M.C.
Sergeant W. Munro.
Private Abraham Stewart.
Sergeant Wm. Adams, R.F.A.
Private Terence Blancy.
Private James Hudson.

WITH THE COLOURS.

Captain—Dr. H. Harbison, R.A.M.C. (mentioned in despatches.)

Lieutenants — Dr. L. M'Menamin, R.A.M.C.; Dr. John Hegarty, R.A.M.C.; J. A. M'Menamin, M.R.C.V.S.; W. A. Gausson, R.F.A.; John Bradley, R. Cassidy, Royal Navy.

Surgeon—J. J. Keightly.

Sergeant-Major—Joe Crawford.

Sergeants—Thomas H. Averall, R.F.A.; Robert Brown, A.S.C.; John Donnelly, R.I.F.; James Hamer, King's Own; Marcus Maitland, R.I. Rifles; Samuel Hawe, 10th Inniskillings.

Corporals—Alex. Monteith (Canadians), David White.

Lance-Corporals—Thomas Hutchinson, J. Kennedy, Wm. Purvis.

Privates—Wm. F. Anderson, William Averall, Bobbie Averall, William Barnett, Walter Bell, R.A.M.C.; John Bell, J. C. Bowman, James Brown, John J. Brown, John Brown, Thomas Bradley, Robert Bradley, J. A. Bradley (Canadian), Allen Cahoon, Thomas Cahoon, Brown Campbell, James Campbell, Joseph Clarke, John Cleary, Patrick William Conway, Kennedy Crossett, J. K. Craig, jun.; Samuel Bradley, William Church, J. Cushley, Robert Davison, James Devlin (prisoner of war), Patrick Doherty,

Peter Donnelly, Joseph Donnelly, John Donnelly, James Donnelly, Joseph Evans, Robert Foster, J. Foster (Irish Guards), William Finn, Henry Glover, John Gilmore, Marcus Hagan, Robert Hamilton, John Hamilton, Robert Hamilton, Joseph Hammond, John Hammond, Patrick Hannaway (injured), R. A. Hanna, N.I.H.; John Joe Heaney, Patrick Hegarty (Motor Service), William Herdman, William Higgins, James Hudson, Harry Hudson, Harry Hudson, Thomas Hudson, John Hughes, George Hughes, John Hughes, Thomas Hughes, Willie Hunter, N.I.H.; Joseph Hunter (R.F.A.), Hugh Hurl, Andrew Hurl, Thomas Hurl, Robert Hurl (navy), Hugh Johnston, N.I.H.; William Johnston (wounded and missing since 16th May), John Kearn, John Kerr, Joseph King, Samuel King, Thomas Kirkwood, Daniel Laughlin, James Laughlin, David Lennox, Thomas Lennox, William Logue, David Love, William Lyttle, William J. Lyttle, James Magill (in hospital), Malcolm Magill, William Magill, Joseph Milligan, William Milligan, George Monteith (Canadians), James Moran, Archibald Morrow, John Murray, Tom Muldoon, John Moore, Robert Montgomery, Archie McCallister, Joseph McCartney (7th Leinsters), Joseph McCartney (Royal Dublin Fusiliers), Francis McClernon, J. McClean, Jack McCleery (London Irish), James McCormack, William McCormick (wounded), Samuel McCormick, E. J. McGuckin, John McGuckin, Peter McGuckin, James McGuckin, Thomas McGuckin, Patrick McGuckin, Harry McGuigan, Tommie M'Hale, Stephen M'Hale, Charles M'Ilhone, Tom M'Ivor (Motor Service), Hugh M'Ivor, Thomas M'Keown, John M'Murray, Thomas M'Murray, Samuel M'Nally, Chat M'Nally, George M'Neill, John M'Teague, James M'Mullan, Thomas Nevin, Hugh Niblock, Charles O'Neill, Joseph M'Neill, Patrick O'Neill, Willie Palmer, William Patterson, John Porter, James Porter, Patrick Purvis, Thomas Payne, James Richardson, David Ritchie, Fred Ritchie, James Scmple, William Stewart, Willie Stewart, Willie Stewart, Edward Stone, John Steenson, William Teany, Jim Timoney, Harry Tohill (wounded and missing since August), James Tohill, Francis Tohill, John Tohill, Francis Tohill, Peter Tohill, John Trainor, Peter Tucker, John Smyth Walker, Joseph Walls, Arthur Walls (navy), Samuel Watson, J. Weir, Samuel White, John White (missing), John Wylie, Harry White, Richard Watterson, Earnest Watterson.

Magherafelt has also supplied distinguished nurses:—

Nurse M. A. Doherty, eldest daughter of Mr. Philip Doherty, Queen Street. She was trained in Dr. Stephen's Hospital, Dublin. At the termination of her training she was appointed a sister, and when the war broke out she volunteered and was sent to France where her devotion to duty won for her the highest distinction that could be awarded to any nurse—the Royal Red Cross.

Nurse S. A. Shields, daughter of Mr. A. Shields, Gortahurk, and who was trained nurse in the workhouse infirmary, also volunteered and is now doing duty in England at present. The Guardians released her for a year or until the war is ended.

The people of Magherafelt and district have, since the commencement of the war, loyally supported every object promoted for the welfare of the Soldiers and Sailors. The objects have been managed by a competent Ladies' Committee, of whom Mrs. James Brown was the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. That the Committee were successful and their efforts fully appreciated, has been evidenced by the large number of parcels dispatched, and also by the numerous letters received

from the recipients gratefully acknowledging the receipt of the parcels.

The sum of £72 11s 3d was collected for comforts for soldiers and feeding of the troops; £51 10s for the Red Cross; £16 16s 6d for the Ulster Volunteer Hospital in Pau, and £10 17s for the Ulster Women's Ambulance, besides £88 for the ambulance for South Derry exclusive of £10, proceeds of Miss Bates' lecture, and Jumble Sale, £47 1s 6d—making a total of £303 3s 7d raised. There has been sent five large boxes of woollen comforts, in addition to the Xmas boxes despatched. The trouble and worry of having those properly transmitted devolved on Mrs. James Brown, who worked assiduously throughout, and also Mrs. Gillespie, who organised the Red Cross collectors. In addition to the amounts collected for comforts for the soldiers, etc., the wounded soldiers to some extent have also been looked after. Up to 5th January, 1916, the Rev. G. W. and the Misses Lindsay have had collected and dispatched 13,761 eggs. In addition, Mrs. Gillespie, The Manse, had collected Sphagnum Moss, which grows in the locality, dried, and sent to the hospitals for dressings for the wounded Soldiers and Sailors. This moss has great antiseptic properties.

THE LAW COURTS.

Amongst the numerous stipulations contained in the Charter of King James the First, granted to the Irish Society on the 29th March, 1613, for the Plantation of Ulster, was the appointment of a Recorder of Londonderry. Consequently the office dates, at least, from that period. When the holder of the office paid his first official visit to Magherafelt is not known, nor is it certain where was the first place in the town where the Sessions were held. The Old Courthouse was not built till the year 1804, and the Sessions at first were held only half-yearly—in June and December. Subsequently, however, quarterly holdings were instituted. In 1854 the Chairman of the Quarter Sessions was Wm. Armstrong, Q.C., and his residence was in 38 Upper Gloucester Street, Dublin. He was succeeded by Mr. Coffey, who gave place to Dr. Erlington, and in turn he was succeeded by Sir John Chute Neligan, who afterwards became Recorder of Cork. The late Recorder, Judge T. G. Overend, K.C., the present Recorder, Judge T. G. Overend, K.C., was appointed, and continued till 1912, when the Present Recorder, His Honour Judge Andrew Todd, M.A., J.L.D., K.C. (who was Co. Court Judge for Co. Tyrone), succeeded Judge Overend.

Judge Johnston, County Court Judge for Counties Monaghan and Fermanagh, was born in Market Square, Magherafelt, his father being the late Mr. James Johnston, formerly of Magherafelt (who went to Belfast in 1879), and his mother a daughter of the late Mr. John Davidson, Luney. As a child he went to the Church School, which was then under the care of Miss Cowan. Then he went to the Meetinghouse Street National School, the teacher of which was Mr. Samuel M'Murray. In Belfast he got his secondary training in the Methodist College, and he had his university training in Queen's College. He took his B.A. in the Royal University in 1888, M.A. in 1889, and J.L.B. in 1891. He was called to the Bar in 1892, and was married to Kathleen, second daughter of the late Mr. William King, Belfast, in 1894. He took a keen interest in politics, and took part in many contested elections. He, himself, contested South Derry in December, 1910, and was beaten by the present Mr. Justice Gordon, whose majority was 333. Judge Johnston is the author of several legal handbooks, including books on the Local Government Act, the Land Purchase Acts, and the Labourers' Acts. He was editor for many years first of the "New Irish Jurist," and then of the "Irish Law Times." In 1907 he was

appointed counsel to the Treasury and the Board of Works. He took silk in October, 1911, and in the following month was appointed County Court Judge of Monaghan and Fermanagh. He has one son, William Denis Johnston, who is now 14 years of age, and his residence is 61 Lansdowne Road, Dublin.

According to a book published by W. P. Nimmo, Edinburgh, entitled: "Law and Lawyers," the solicitor branch of the legal profession seems to have risen, in great part, out of suits in Star Chamber, but the date is not given. Be this as it may, one would not like to contemplate the effect on our business and commercial life if such a profession did not now exist. The only solicitor Magherafelt could boast of in 1854 was John Lawrence, and he resided in portion of premises now occupied by Mr. John Walsh, The Hotel, and the Commissioner for taking acknowledgment of deeds by married women in Ireland was David Chambers. Messrs. Lano and Proctor, from Limavady, also attended the Sessions, and had offices in town.

The late Mr. John Glover, solicitor, who was for many years the leading practising solicitor in Magherafelt, was born on the 21st November, 1829, at Gulladuff. He was educated at Queen's College, Belfast, and entered The Assembly's College of the Presbyterian Church as a theological student in 1853. Subsequently he selected the legal profession for his career, and became an apprentice to the late John Bates, a native of Knockloughrim, who was then a very prominent solicitor in Belfast. He was admitted a solicitor in the year 1857, and commenced to practice in Magherafelt. In the early part of his life he took a prominent part in politics, and was a pronounced Liberal. While still a student in Queen's College, Belfast, in the year 1852, he took part in the General Election and supported Mr. Samuel M'Curdy Greer, who had published his address to the electors of the County of Londonderry, declaring his intention to support measures for the legalization of the Tenant-right Customs of Ulster, Vote by Ballot, and Grand Jury Reform. Mr. Greer was opposed by Mr. Thomas Bateson (whose family had represented County Londonderry for 30 years prior to 1857) and Mr. Jones. Mr. Bateson was returned at this election. Mr. Glover also took an active part in the elections held in March, 1857, in April 1857 (when Mr. Greer was returned), and in the General Elections of 1859, 1860, and 1865. The election in the last-mentioned year was the cause of a

number of actions for penalties against several conspicuous citizens of the City of Londonderry, against whom extensive bribery in the Conservative interest was alleged. Mr. Glover acted as solicitor for the Liberals in this litigation, and obtained verdicts for them in several cases. About this time there was an active and strenuous agitation throughout Ulster in support of "tenant-right," customs, and when, in 1867, the Salters' Company, who then owned the Town of Magherafelt, attempted to increase the rent of the tenants of the town, Mr. Glover took a very active part in resisting the increase, on the grounds that the tenants had made all the buildings and improvements at their own expense, and that the Company had never expended anything on the town, and that therefore they ought not to tax the capital outlay of the tenants by adding an additional rent, and so crush out all enterprise of the tenants. In the following year he published a pamphlet on the management by the London Companies of their Estates in Londonderry. It was primarily intended to attract the attention of the Companies in London to the way their agents treated the tenants of their Estates. It was extensively circulated amongst the members of the various Companies, and produced marked changes for the better, both in the methods of their agents and the general management of their Estates. It resulted also in several of the Companies, unsolicited by him, seeking his services professionally. On the severance of the Liberal party, caused by the introduction of the Home Rule Bill of 1885, Mr. Glover (who continued a supporter of Mr. Gladstone throughout his life) found himself at variance with the views of the great majority of the Ulster Liberals, who joined with the Conservatives in opposing the bill, and he ceased to take any public part in politics until 1892, when he acted as election agent for Mr. Samuel Walker, afterwards Lord Chancellor, the Gladstonian candidate for South Derry in that year. Mr. Glover was one of the promoters of the Derry Central Railway, and the Draperstown Railway, and a Governor of the Rainey School, and always actively assisted in any project for the assistance of the town. He was a staunch Presbyterian, and a member of the Union Road Presbyterian Church till his death, and throughout his life was keenly interested in all church matters. He died at Torquay on the 26th May, 1895. He was married to Miss Mary Hastings, a daughter of the late William Hastings, of Magherafelt, who survives him.

The late Mr. Robert M'Guckin was son of Mr. R. M'Guckin, J.P., of Ballyronan, who had been an ex-officio Poor-Law Guardian, and was educated at Armagh and Blackrock College, Dublin. Having adopted the law as his profession, he served his apprenticeship with Mr. John Glover, and with such assiduity did he pursue his studies that he

was awarded the gold medal in his final examination. He then became partner to Mr. Glover, forming the well known firm of solicitors, Glover and M'Guckin, whose reputation was not confined to Ulster, but was known throughout Ireland. On the death of Mr. Glover he carried on the business with consummate ability. He was solicitor to the Magherafelt Board of Guardians and District Council, local solicitor to the Midland Railway Company, the Coleraine Board of Conservators; in addition to being the legal adviser to all the principal landowners of the surrounding district. Outside his profession his services were often sought after. He took a keen interest in Technical Education, and was a member of the local Committee, being of invaluable service. He also took a very active and practical interest in any project for movement which was for the benefit of the town and district, giving his time and services most ungrudgingly. His delight was to see his native town holding her own in regard to appearance and comfort of the streets, and on numerous occasions he supported the applications made by the Market Trustees before the District Council, for the improvement of the streets. He died in Harrowgate on the 19th September, 1914.

Mr. John Harbison, solicitor, is the son of the late James Harbison, merchant, Queen Street (who from 1874 till 1891 was one of the guardians for Magherafelt Division), received part of his primary education in the National School which was situated in Garden Street, and taught by Master Trainor. He subsequently went to Armagh College, and thence to Blackrock College. His desire was to embrace the legal profession, and he served his time in the office of the late Mr. Alex. Rorke, solicitor, Donegall Street, Belfast. After a very successful course he was admitted a solicitor in Hilary term, 1876, and has practiced in his native town ever since. By the death of the late Mr. Robert M'Guckin, he became the Father of the Sessional Bar. He is of a very obliging and genial disposition, and is held in the highest regard by his legal brethren. A number of solicitors who have made their mark in their profession served their time with Mr. Harbison, viz.—T. J. S. Harbison, Cookstown; R. Haldane Carson, Sessional Crown Solicitor for Co. Tyrone; Joseph I. Donaghy, B.A., solicitor and Registrar of Co. Court; Louis Walsh, B.A., Ballycastle, and S. J. Millar, B.A., Moneymore. He also had, for his clerk, the late Mr. John H. Bradley, who afterwards became the famous solicitor in Ballymena. Mr. Harbison has not confined his attention solely to his business, but has entered largely into the life of the town. He was a Director of the late Gas Company, and is a valued member of the Trustees of the Magherafelt markets and

Town Hall. His son is the present efficient Clerk of Petty Sessions.

Mr. James Brown, solicitor, is a son of the late Mr. Andrew Brown, J.P., The Cottage, and was born on 4th February, 1860. He was educated at the Royal Academical Institution, Belfast, and Queen's College, Galway, and was admitted a solicitor in November, 1822. He is one of the foremost Electioneering Agents in Ireland, and numbers amongst his agencies that of the late Sir William Findlater, who contested South Derry in 1885; the late Sir Thomas Lea, Bart, M.P., in 1892 and 1896; the Right Hon. Mr. Justice Gordon, from 1900 till 1916, and Mr. Denis S. Henry, K.C., the 1916, and Mr. Denis S. Henry, K.C., in 1916. He also represented the Unionists interests of South Derry in the Revision Courts, from 1883, and is looked upon as the Registration Solicitor in Ireland. He married on the 7th July, 1885, Georgina Greenfield, only daughter of the late Robert Shiels, of Coleraine.

Mr. J. I. Donaghy, B.A., County Court Registrar, is the eldest son of the late Mr. John Donaghy, of The Square, Magherafelt, merchant, who, as one of the three Original Trustees for the Town Hall and Markets, did so much to further the advancement and prosperity of Magherafelt. Mr. Joseph Donaghy was born on 31st July, 1868, and received his early training under the able tuition of Mr. Matthew J. O'Neill, N.T. Later on he had a highly successful career in the Intermediate while at St. Stanislaus' College (S.J.), Tullamore; and in the Royal University while at Clongowes Wood College (S.J.), Sallins. He received his B.A. Degree in the Royal University, Ireland, in October, '89, was indentured to Mr. John Harbison, solicitor, on 5th November following, and was admitted as solicitor in November, 1892. Mr. Donaghy took an active part in the election contests in South Derry by Sir Samuel Walker, P.C., the late Lord Chancellor; and later on by his Lordship, Mr. Justice Dodd, K.C., for the latter of whom he acted as assistant conducting agent. In January, 1910, he acted as election agent for Sir Samuel Keightley, LL.D., who contested South Derry in the Liberal interest; and in the following year he acted in a similar capacity for Mr. W. J. Johnston, B.L., the present popular County Court Judge for Monaghan and Fermanagh. For twenty years Mr. Donaghy appeared in the Revision Courts as solicitor for the South Derry Nationalist Registration Association, and took part in many a hard fought battle against that veteran in Registration Courts, Mr. James Brown, who acted as solicitor for the Unionists. In September, 1912, his Honour Judge Todd, K.C., the learned Recorder of Londonderry, appointed Mr.

Donaghy to act as his County Court Registrar for the City and County of Londonderry—a selection which met with the unanimous approval of the entire legal profession and mercantile community in the County. Previously to this Mr. Donaghy had practised in Belfast since 1899, retaining his Branch Office in Magherafelt, but on being appointed Registrar he gave up the Magherafelt Office and severed all connection with political organizations in County Derry. Mr. Donaghy has been concerned in several very important cases in Belfast, the most notable being that of "McCusker v. The Lord Mayor and Corporation of Belfast," the object of which was to quash the re-valuation of Belfast, and the legal arguments in which extended over six days. Another important case was the recent famous libel action against a Belfast Newspaper, in which the late Lord Justice Moriarty (then Serjeant Moriarty) acted as leading Senior Counsel for Mr. Donaghy's clients in the two hearings, of twelve days and nine days respectively, both resulting in a disagreement of the jury. Mr. Donaghy was married, in August, 1900, to Mary Eleanor, elder daughter of the late Matthew Burke, of Westport House, Middletown, J.P. for the Counties of Armagh and Monaghan, and has four children living. It is not too much to say that Mr. Donaghy's sound knowledge of the law, and his strict impartiality, combined with his unassuming good nature, ready tact, and willingness to oblige, have gained for him the esteem and friendship of every class and section in his native County, and have made them unite in hoping that he may be long spared to discharge among them his duties as a County official.

Mr. John Lawrence Rentoul Hastings, third surviving son of William Hastings, Esq., of Rose Lodge, Magherafelt, was apprenticed to Mr. Joseph I. Donaghy, B.A., solicitor, and admitted as a solicitor in October, 1912. On the appointment of Mr. Donaghy as the County Derry County Court Registrarship, he took on the practice of the latter. In addition to being a solicitor of great promise, he is well known throughout the north of Ireland as an athlete, and had always interested himself in the promotion of all branches of local athletics.

Mr. James Johnston, son of the late Alexander Johnston, Magherafelt, received his early education in the Fair Hill National School, Magherafelt, under the present teacher, Master Stewart. He afterwards went to the Rainey Endowed School, Magherafelt, taught by the Rev. James McFeeters, B.A., and thence matriculated. He was then apprenticed to the firm of Glover and McGuckin, solicitors, Magherafelt, in September, 1901. In January, 1907, he was admitted a solicitor, and since then has practised in Magherafelt.

Mr. Vincent M'Guckin, who is the sole partner of the firm of Messrs. Glover and M'Guckin, served his apprenticeship with Mr. P. J. Henry, solicitor, Draperstown, and was admitted a solicitor, at the Trinity Sittings, 1913, having obtained a special certificate for distinguished answering in his final examination. On his admission as a solicitor of the Supreme Court, he became a partner with his late father, Mr. Robert M'Guckin, deceased, in the firm of Glover and M'Guckin, and continued in such partnership until the latter's death, on the 19th September, 1914, when he took over the entire business of Glover and M'Guckin, who have for many years carried on a very extensive business as solicitors and estate agents in the North of Ireland. It may be mentioned that they recently took over the entire management of the Chichester Estates in the City of Dublin, and Counties of Cavan and Londonderry, while the Jones Estate, comprising extensive properties in the Counties of Down, Armagh, Antrim and Louth have for many years been under their guidance. The local business of the Board of Conservators and the Midland Railway is also entrusted to their care, and they are retained as solicitors for the Swateragh Turbary Trustees.

Mr. Thomas Larkin, court auctioneer, of Rainey Street, who is now the leading auctioneer, valuer, and cattle salesman in Magherafelt and District, was born in Glenmaguill, near Magherafelt, in the house at present occupied by his brother, Mr. James Larkin, J.P. He served a legal apprentice-

ship with Mr. John Harbison, solicitor, into whose office he entered in 1885. After a period of eleven years, during the last six of which he was manager for Mr. Harbison, he took out his licence as auctioneer and valuer. It may here be mentioned that Mr. Larkin's first auction, in 1896, was a Court sale, by order of the late Recorder, Judge Overend. From that time on Mr. Larkin made steady progress, and he is now admitted by all to be one of the most capable salesmen in Ulster. The present Recorder of Londonderry, Judge Todd, appointed Mr. Larkin to carry out all sales in his Court, and he has done so, to the entire satisfaction of the Judge, the Bar, and all parties concerned. His auctions are not merely confined to the Magherafelt district, as he is well known in auctioneering circles in Belfast, Londonderry, Coleraine, and Portrush, where many valuable properties have changed hands under his supervision. His horse, cattle, sheep, and pig sales, within his own covered sale yard, at the rear of his premises in Rainey Street, afford an excellent medium, where farmers may obtain large prices for their animals at small expense. He is also engaged in the wine and spirit business, and carries on an extensive trade. By the late Lord Chancellor Walker, he was appointed Commissioner for Oaths for the County of Londonderry, and he represents the Castledawson Division on the Rural District Council. He is a leading man in the affairs of the town of Magherafelt, and is very popular with all creeds and classes.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

According to Wellcome's Nurses Diary," Schools of Medicine were known to have existed in connection with the principal temples of Egypt, 1,500 years or more before Christ, therefore it is one of the oldest professions extant. In the year 1824 the Medical profession in Magherafelt was represented by a Dr. Evans and Dr. Shannon. Dr. Evans resided in the house now occupied by Messrs. Dickson Bros. and Co.

In 1842 the Medical Practitioners had been supplemented by a Dr. Schoales and Dr. Glenholm, both of whom resided in Market Street.

In "The Mid-Ulster Mail" of the 24th July, 1915, the following appeared:—

In the "Personal and Incidental" column of the "Whig," the following verses are given as an example of unmeasured eulogy, the subject being a Magherafelt doctor, "who no doubt attended the grandparents" of the present generation. Can any of our Magherafelt readers identify the doctor for us?

On the Death of Dr. G—m, late of M—t. The splendid monument is often raised.

Oft stately pageantry attends the bier
Of those whom none but sycophants e'er
praised;

O'er whom affection never shed a tear;
Whose lives, if viewed divested of that glare—
And gilded halo which surrounds the great;

How vile an aspect would their actions bear—
How little to commend, how much to hate?
Not so the man this town hath lately lost,

His name needs not the sculptor's meed of
praise,

Needs not a monument of splendid cost
Instead of that which worth alone can raise.

Say ye who know him best! Say ye to whom
His worth was known, the upright path he
trod,

May not this line with justice mark his tomb?
"An honest man's the noblest work of God."

In all probability it refers to Dr. Glenholm, and a few of the inhabitants recollect their parents recounting the noble acts of kindness performed by him. Dr. Shannon died on 14th May, 1890.

Then followed Dr. John Stuart Vesey, son of the Rev. T. Vesey, Rector of Magherafelt. He was the first Dispensary Medical Officer of Magherafelt, and also of the Workhouse.

He died on the 8th October, 1874, aged 59 years.

Next we had Dr. Francis Auterson, J.P. He was born at Coalsara, near Desertmartin, his mother being one of the Kellys of the Luney. He received his early education under his uncle, the late Very Rev. Samuel Auterson, P.P., Kilrea, and afterwards was class mate of his cousin, the Right Rev. Monsignor M'Gurk, P.P., Maghera, and Col. Waters, C.B., Tubbermore. at M'Closkey's School, Tigarvil. He was M.R.C.S., England, '59; L.R.C.P., Edin. '67; L.M., Coombe Royal College Surgeon and City of Dublin Hospital, and was medical examiner Government Insurance. He was uncle of the late Mr. Robert M'Guckin, solicitor, and died on the 5th October, 1905, at the age of 85.

Dr. Agmondishane Blathwayt Vesey, J.P., who resided at Bellevue, and succeeded his father, Dr. J. S. Vesey, as Medical Officer of the Magherafelt Dispensary District and Workhouse. He was L. and L.M., R.C.S.I., 1873; L. and L.M.K.Q.C.P.I., 1874; L.M., Rotundo Hospital, 1873 (Trinity College, Carmich School, Richmond and Rotundo Hospitals); Medical Attendant Constabulary; Inspector of Recruits; Certifying Factory Surgeon; Consulting Sanitary Officer; Medical Referee; several Insurance Companies; member British Medical Association; late Senior Resident Clinical Assistant, Richmond, Whitworth and Hardwicke Hospitals; Clinical Prizeman two years. He was a great favourite, a thorough gentleman, and an enthusiastic hunter. He died on the 12th March, 1901, aged 53 years.

Dr. A. Hegarty, J.P., who succeeded Dr. A. B. Vesey, J.P., as Medical Officer of Magherafelt Dispensary and Workhouse, had been Medical Officer of Draperstown Dispensary District from 1887, prior to which he had an extensive practice in Kilrea, and which he still retains. He obtained his M.D. in the R.U.I. in 1868, and M.Ch., 1870, Queen's College, Belfast. He is the Medical Attendant of the Police; Post Office, and Medical Officer of the Railway Benevolent Society. He has the reputation of being a very clever and capable doctor and surgeon. His residence is Ardath, Magherafelt. His two sons, John and Andrew, both took medicine as their profession, and after war had broken out offered their services to the Government, which were accepted, and Andrew, as already referred to, being killed somewhere in France.

Dr. Mitchell Hunter, Broad Street, was born at Rowansgift, Castledawson, and for a number of years practised in Sunderland.

England. He was Surgeon of the Durham Light Infantry (Territorials). He obtained his M.D. in Miami Medical College, Cincinnati, in 1871; L.S.A., London, 1882; is Certifying Factory Surgeon; Medical Referee Scottish Equitable, and other Assurance Companies; Member British Medical Association; Recruiting Medical Officer, and Medical Referee under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Dr. J. P. Kerlin, Broad Street, is a native of Garvagh, and youngest son of Mr. Philip Kerlin, J.P. His brother is the Rev. C. H. Kerlin, C.C., Derry. He had a distinguished

career in the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Dublin, where he occupied the position of Senior House Physician with much acceptance. He is an M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., R.U.I., 1907; L.M. Honours Rotundo Hospital, Dublin, and at present is enjoying a lucrative practice.

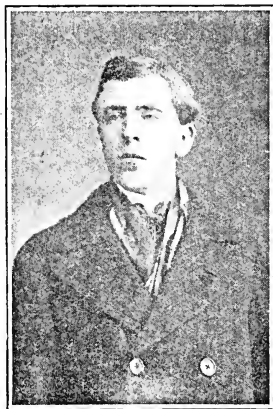
The other medical men who practiced in Magherafelt were Dr. E. Montgomery, Dr. Stephen Garvin, now Medical Officer of Clonavaddy, Dispensary District, Dungannon Union; Dr. Charles V. Nesbitt, now of Randalstown, and Dr. Wright.



DR. J. P. KERLIN.



MR. THOMAS LARKIN.



MR. J. A. HARBISON, C.P.S.



MR. JOHN GEORGE, V.S.



MR. W. WALSH, V.S.

VETERINARY SURGEONS.

Mr. John George, M.R.C.V.S., was born in Ruskey House, Coagh, in the year 1865, and he received his early education at the Intermediate School, Moneymore, under the late Mr. William Crooks. He adopted the profession of Veterinary Surgeon, and served his pupilage under Mr. Wm. Barling, M.R.C.V.S., Newan on Severn. In 1887, took his degrees of M.R.C.V.S. and F.E.V.M.A., and became assistant to the late Mr. John Rodgerston, M.R.C.V.S., Blackburn. In 1889 he started in Magherafelt, where he still holds a very extensive practice. After the death of the late Mr. Wm. Sandford, V.S., Moneymore, he became the Inspector under the Contagious Diseases Animals' Act to the Magherafelt Board of Guardians, and on the passing of the Local Government Act, 1898, he was appointed Veterinary Inspector to the Londonderry County Council for the district of Magherafelt—a position which he still holds. He also had the honour conferred upon him by the Royal Dublin Society of being selected as one of the veterinary surgeons at their annual show at Ballsbridge. In 1902 he married Annie, eldest daughter of Mr. Hugh M'Lernon, one of the oldest inhabitants of Magherafelt.

Mr. William P. Walsh, M.R.C.V.S., youngest son of Mr. John Walsh, The Hotel, Magherafelt. Born 14th December, 1887, educated at St. Joseph's National School, and St. Patrick's Intermediate School, Magherafelt; afterwards at the Dominican College, Newbridge, Co. Kildare. From the latter College went to the Royal Veterinary College of Ireland, Ballsbridge, Dublin, and was qualified there, on 12th December, 1912. During his vacations in the Royal Veterinary College he spent his time in practice with Mr. William Lamont, M.R.C.V.S., Cookstown. Mr. Walsh is well known by the South Derry football supporters, having played for Magherafelt and Derryloran Football Clubs. He was a member of the Magherafelt team which won the South Derry League Championship in the season 1912-13. He has represented South Derry in the Inter-League matches between The East Tyrone League, and also against The Coleraine and District League. Whilst in Dublin Mr. Walsh was a member of University College and Tritonville Football Teams. Mr. Walsh has been in practice in Magherafelt since he was qualified, and was appointed by the Assistant Director of Veterinary Services, Irish Command, as Veterinary Officer, in charge of the troops stationed at Antrim and Randalstown, on the 5th November, 1914, and continues to attend their daily since that date.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

By the passing of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, a body was established in each County in Ireland, called The County Council, to which was transferred a good deal of the business of the Grand Jury, including the County at large presentment Sessions, the business of the Boards of Guardians with respect to making, levying, collecting and recovering the poor-rate in so much of each County as is not comprised in an Urban County District, the business of the Guardians under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1894, etc., etc. Rural District Councils which are practically co-extensive with poor-law Unions, were also formed, to which were transferred the business of the Guardians under the Public Health Acts, and the business of the baronial Presentment Sessions, so far as related to their district.

The Union of Magherafelt was divided into seven County Electoral Divisions:—

MAGHERAFELT, comprising the Electoral Divisions of Ballymoghgan, Magherafelt, and The Loop.

BELLAGHY, comprising the Divisions of Bellaghy, Gulladuff, and Rocktown.

DRAPERSTOWN, comprising the Divisions of Baneran, Carnamoney, Draperstown, and The Six Towns.

CASTLEDAWSON, comprising the Divisions of Ballyronan, Castledawson, and Salterstown.

MAGHERA, comprising the Divisions of Maghera, Swateragh, and The Grove (the latter belongs to Coleraine Union.)

MONEYMORE, comprising the Divisions of Brackaslievegallion, Lissan Upper, Moneyhaw, Moneymore, and Springhill.

TOBERMORE, comprising the Divisions of Desortmartin, Inniscarn, Tobermore, and Tullykeeran.

Clady Division is included in Kilrea County Division.

The first representative returned on the County Council for Magherafelt was the late Mr. Samuel Porter, J.P., merchant, Magherafelt, whose ripe experience and shrewd business habits were found most valuable in aiding the County Council to successfully bring into operation the Local Government Act. He continued in this capacity for six years, when he resigned. He was succeeded by Mr. T. A. McLernon, solicitor, who proved a worthy successor to Mr. Porter, and his services during the three years he represented the ratepayers of the Magherafelt County Division are gratefully remembered. Mr. McLernon is the eldest son of Mr. Hugh McLernon, merchant, Rainey Street. He served his apprenticeship in the office of Mr. James Brown, solicitor, and was admitted a solicitor in 1896. For a number of years he practiced in his native town, subsequently removing to Belfast, where he at present resides.

The present representative is Mr. Andrew Brown, Ballyeglish House, Moneymore. He was elected in 1908, and since then has represented the Division, and has proved himself a wise and sagacious administrator. His experience as Chairman of the District Council, from 1905 to 1908, has stood him in good stead, and the ratepayers interests are admirably looked after by him.

The representatives of the other County Divisions are:—

Bellaghy—John Keenan, J.P.

Draperstown—Charles Heron, J.P.

Castledawson—A. L. Clarke, J.P.

Maghera—Col. J. J. Clarke, Chairman, County Council.

Moneymore—Hugh Thompson.

Tobermore—J. E. O'Neill, J.P., Vice-Chairman County Council.

THE POST OFFICE.

It seems that the Post Office derives its name from the posts or stages at which couriers were maintained on the roads of the Roman Empire for the purpose of conveying news and despatches. It is said that Cyrus, who reigned in Persia about 500 B.C., established post-houses in development of a system of couriers existing in the Persian Empire. In the early times in England both public and private letters were carried by special messengers. Letters were conveyed at a later date by the common carriers, who carried goods on pack horses from town to town. During the latter end of the 16th Century post horses were impressed by Government messengers, and a penny a mile was paid for their services.

The first inland post was created by Charles I in 1635. Some years later eight postal lines were set up throughout England. Postage on a single letter was 2d for 80 miles, 4d for 160 miles. Any greater distance in England 6d, and to Scotland 8d. The Mail Coaches were introduced in 1784. The penny post was introduced by Sir Rowland Hill, on the 10th January, 1840. On the 6th May, 1840, stamped envelopes were issued. Up to 1840 the members of both Houses of Parliament were entitled by Statute to send free ten letters every day, not exceeding an ounce

in weight, to any part of the United Kingdom, and to receive 15. The Post Office Savings Bank was established in 1861, the Post Office Telegraph in 1870, and the Parcels Post in 1883.

In 1824 the Postmaster of Magherafelt was a Thomas Dickson. In 1854 Joshua Adams held that position, and the mails arrived from Dublin at 10-11 a.m., and were despatched at 4-15 p.m. Subsequently a Miss Daley was appointed—the house she then occupied being now in possession of Mr. P. J. O'Kane, publican, Broad Street. Mr. Joseph Campbell succeeded Miss Daley—the office being removed to the premises in the Diamond, now occupied by Mr. John Rutledge, draper. Mr. John Morrison followed Mr. Campbell, the Office being again changed to its present location. Next Mr. Joseph Breen became Postmaster, and he was succeeded by Miss Lavery (now Mrs. McMaster), the present efficient and obliging Postmistress. The Assistants are Miss Monteith, Miss Kelly, and Miss Finn. Prior to 1893 there was no general delivery of letters in the country districts. On the 26th June of that year a partial delivery took place, and this gave place in 1897 to a daily house to house delivery.

THE BOYS' SCOUT.

The 1st Glenbrook Boys' Scout Troop was inaugurated in the summer of 1912 by Miss Cassidi, Glenbrook, and she became "Lady Scout Master." Mr. Burton, cashier of the Belfast Bank, was appointed Hon. Treasurer. Mr. Hugh M'Master, The Diamond, was asked to become Scout Master, which he consented to do, and has held that position ever since. It may be interesting to note that this troop was the first Scout Troop raised in South Derry. It flourished so well that it became necessary to appoint an Assistant Scout Master, and Mr. Ernest Ritchie held the post for some time, being succeeded by Mr. W. Grey.

The first year the Troop had a membership of 24 boys, and of that number 10 are serving their King and Country at the Front, and two have gone into the Bank service—a very creditable record for a Troop three years in existence.

There are 26 members at present, and although many of them are quite young, quite a number have taken proficiency badges, and altogether they are most keen in their work. They have three meetings in the week—one evening for Scout work, one evening for

football, and one evening (Sunday) "The Scouts' Own," as it is termed, is held in the Scout Master's home, and takes the form of a short bright service of religious instruction, etc. Both Senior and Junior Scouts take part in it in their turn, and a short address is given by Scout Master. The great event in "Scout Life" was the inspection of the Ulster Troops at Belfast by the Chief Scout, Sir R. Baden-Powell, in the month of August, 1915, and the inspection and rally will be remembered as one of the greatest events in the history of 1st Glenbrook Troop.

The gentlemen who have supported the movement since its inception are—Rev. G. W. Lindsay, M.A.; Rev. George Gillespie, M.A.; Rev. E. Ritchie, B.D.; Dr. Hunter, M. B. Redmond, James Brown, solicitor; District-Inspector Wilbond, John Boden, J.P.; Wilson Gamble, J. H. Crawford, Walter Bell, and J. Stewart, N.T.

The Troop has been most fortunate in having as its founder Miss Cassidi, who has placed Glenbrook at its service, and in Mr. M'Master they have an ideal Scout Master, while the present Assistant Scout Master is all that could be desired.

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